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Japan

Miyazawa on U.S. Trade Demands, G-7 Discussions

OW2804081093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa predicted Wednesday [28 April] that the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations will discuss ways to stabilize foreign exchange rates at their meeting later this week.

Miyazawa told the House of Representatives plenary session that the G-7 countries traditionally like exchange rates to move calmly while reflecting the economic fundamentals of respective nations. He said this idea will prevail over discussions at the forthcoming meeting. Finance ministers and central bankers from the seven countries will hold a session in Washington on Thursday. The group consists of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Miyazawa said policy coordination by the G-7 countries will remain unchanged and that they will take concerted action whenever stability of exchange rates is disrupted by speculation. Referring to his recent meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington, Miyazawa said the U.S. demand for Japan to set quantitative import targets is unacceptable. Such promises will never be fulfilled under the principle of free market economy, he said. Miyazawa said the U.S. demand stemmed from misunderstanding that the Japanese market could be controlled by the government. The misunderstanding apparently was caused when the foreign market share happened to attain a 20 percent target set under the Japan-U.S. semiconductor trade agreement, he said.

Finance Minister Stresses Need for G-7 Action

OW2804023893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0205 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., April 28 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi on Wednesday stressed the need for the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers to cooperate in restoring stability of foreign exchange rates.

Hayashi, speaking to reporters before leaving Japan for Washington, said U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen's comment on Tuesday "completely" matches his view foreign exchange rates should be stabilized.

Bentsen said in a Senate subcommittee that foreign exchange rates should reflect economic fundamentals and should not be manipulated, noting that there is "some misperception" about U.S. foreign exchange policy.

Noting the "wild" fluctuations in the yen-dollar rate the previous day, Hayashi said G-7 partners should cooperate on macroeconomic and foreign exchange issues.

In response to a question from reporters about whether G-7 policy coordination works or not, the top financial official said, "Please ask market players about that."

Hayashi is traveling to the U.S. to attend a meeting of G-7 finance ministers and central bankers scheduled to start Thursday, ahead of joint biannual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Miyazawa Welcomes Apparent Economic Upturn

OW2804053393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0454 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Wednesday the domestic economy appears to have hit bottom judging by the government's economic indicators.

The Economic Planning Agency reported Tuesday that Japan's economy showed signs of recovery in February as key indicators climbed above the critical line of 50 percent.

"We'd better wait for another month to determine but the indicators speak for themselves," Miyazawa told reporters.

Applauds Bentsen Remarks on Currency

OW2804035993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday applauded comments made by U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen on the need for stability in foreign exchange rates and intervention by the U.S. central bank to support the dollar.

"It's natural," Miyazawa told a group of reporters.

Bentsen told a Senate subcommittee hearing Tuesday that excessive volatility of foreign exchange raes is counterproductive and could hurt economic growth.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which handles market operations on behalf of the federal reserve, reportedly bought dollars for the yen in several rounds of intervention in New York on Tuesday.

The U.S. central bank intervention sent the dollar rallying against the yen after it fell to a record low of 109.15 yen in New York.

Asked whether the U.S. intervention means a shift in U.S. foreign exchange policy, Miyazawa declined comment and reiterated that currency markets have not clearly understood U.S. policy.

"The market appears to have had a misperception," he said.

The latest appreciation of the yen began earlier this month with comments by U.S. President Bill Clinton citing a stronger yen as a way of slashing the huge U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

The dollar came under heavy selling pressure after the remarks as currency dealers took them to signal that the

United States wants to see the dollar fall against the yen to help rectify the bilateral trade imbalance.

Tokyo Applauds Yen's Decline Against Dollar

OW2804024193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0223 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—A Japanese Government source applauded the yen's retreat against the dollar in currency markets Wednesday.

"It's welcome," the source told reporters when asked to comment on foreign-exchange movements ahead of a meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations on Thursday in Washington.

The dollar rallied against the yen aboad overnight on several rounds of dollar-buying intervention by the U.S. central bank after falling to a new postwar low against the yen.

The Japanese Government source said the U.S. central bank intervention appears to have been triggered by fears that the dollar could take a tumble not only against the yen but also against the German mark and other major European currencies.

"It seems that (the U.S. central bank) bought dollars for fear that the dollar's fall could cause inflation," the source said.

The source said the G-7 meeting could end up with a communique referring to concern about the yen's sharp appreciation against the dollar in recent weeks with an appeal for coordinated intervention.

"The meeting will be a place where Japan will insist that a stronger yen is not desirable and appeal to other G-7 countries for coordinated intervention," the source noted.

Chief government spokesman Yohei Kono welcomed comments made Tuesday by U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen on the need for stability in foreign exchange rates.

"It's a remark I agree with," Kono told a news conference. "Foreign exchange rates should reflect (economic) fundamentals."

Bentsen said Tuesday that excessive volatility of foreign exchange rates is counterproductive and could hurt economic growth.

Bentsen made the comments in response to a question at a Senate subcommittee hearing about whether the United States was trying to drive up the value of the Japanese currency.

Miyazawa Modifies Optimism About Economic Upturn

OW2804101793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0959 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, modifying his optimistic stance about the domestic economy, said Wednesday [28 April] the current state precludes a foregone conclusion.

Miyazawa made the observation at a meeting at his official residence by the Economic Council, an advisory organ to the prime minister. Miyazawa told reporters earlier that he was optimistic about economic conditions, citing a report by the Economic Planning Agency that economic indicators showed signs of recovery in February. He told the council meeting there are some encouraging signs but it is better to remain cautious since present conditions seem to preclude prejudgment. Miyazawa said the government plans to submit bills on a supplementary budget to the Diet on May 14.

MITI Official Repeatedly Rejects Power Rate Cut

OW2604092193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0813 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japan's Vice Trade Minister on Monday [26 April] again rejected calls for reducing electric power charges as the yen gains against the U.S. dollar on foreign exchange markets.

"We will consider passing on exchange profits (to consumers) when the time comes. But at the moment, electric power companies have no money to pass on," said Yuji Tanahashi, the vice international trade and industry minister.

Tanahashi, speaking at a news conference, said the electric power industry is now losing about 50 billion yen because of higher crude oil prices.

He said his ministry will keep an eye on movements of exchange rates and crude oil prices to see whether any reduction in utilities charges becomes possible in the future.

Electric power and gas charges are subject to the ministry's approval in Japan.

'News Focus' Views Hopes for Strong Yen's Benefits

OW2804005693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0020 GMT 28 Apr 93

["News Focus" article by Tetsuo Ashitani; third in a four-part series on strong yen: "Japanese Consumers Expect Strong Yen To Bring Bonanza"]

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Businessmen sitting down to lunch at a posh Tokyo hotel on April 21 smiled when they saw the cost of a "10-dollar steak" special hit an all-time low price of 1,100 yen.

But foreign exchange traders in Tokyo were not amused—for the dollar that day slumped to a historic low of 109.90 yen.

The restaurant "Poruto" at the Tokyo Prince Hotel charges whatever the foreign exchange market dictates, and sets the price of a 180-gram American beef steak at the yen-equivalent of 10 dollars.

The restaurant initiated the menu when it opened in August 1978. The price of the 10-dollar steak once climbed to 2,780 yen in line with the prevailing yen-dollar rate.

Masashi Ogura, the restaurant manager, said the special menu attracts more people because of its "reasonable price."

"We are determined to keep the menu. But if the dollar falls further, we might have to reconsider it," he said.

The yen has been rising steadily in value since early February and Japanese businesses, including blue-chip electronics and car makers, have expressed grave concern about the impact on exports.

For Japanese consumers, however, a strong yen means lower prices of dollar-denominated import goods, and leading supermarket chains and department stores are quickly taking advantage of the shift in foreign exchange markets.

Seiyu Ltd., a Tokyo-based supermarket chain, is launching a two-week special discount sale at its 120 stores in eastern Japan.

Housewives, already nervous about rising costs of foodstuffs and other daily necessities, now can buy a variety of imported foods at Seiyu stores—Australian beef, California oranges, Alaskan salmon—all at a 30 percent discount off usual prices.

Starting in June, Seiyu will chop 15 percent off the price of 150 items of food, clothing and household articles.

To skirt the complicated domestic distribution system, which adds to retail prices, Seiyu has rapidly expanded imports direct from Asian manufacturers such as Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The amount of direct imports jumped to 38 billion yen in fiscal 1992 from 10 billion yen in fiscal 1985, a Seiyu official said.

Takashimaya Co., a major Japanese department store, started 8 to 20 percent discount sales from April 15 for imported items, including German tableware and British furniture.

It purchased the goods six months ago when the yen was floating lower, so "if the yen's current strong trend continues, the imported goods to be sold after October will be more reduced," a Takashimaya spokeswoman said.

Economists expect the yen's rise will benefit households and help revive consumer spending. Battered by the recent economic slump, the worst in two decades, Japanese consumers have become wary of buying foreign brand goods. The stronger yen should change that.

Masaru Takagi, chief economist of Fuji Research Institute Corp., predicts that if the value of the yen averages 110 yen this year the consumer price index will drop 0.6 percentage point from 1992, giving a return of 24,000 yen to each individual household.

"This could have much more effect than a 1 trillion yen income tax break that the government had thought of introducing," he said. "It is an invisible pump-priming measure that can be done without issuing deficit-ridden national bonds."

But everything depends on how fast companies pass their profits made by the yen's rise into retail prices.

An official of the Economic Planning Agency's Price Bureau said it used to take as long as a year for consumers to get the benefits. Now it takes half as long.

"Japan's distributing systems have been improved to quickly reflect foreign exchange rates and new types of discount stores have also emerged in many cities," the official explained.

Kawachiya Shuhan K.k., a liquor wholesaler, is one of such discounters using a system known as "parallel import."

It buys foreign liquor directly from overseas brokers for less than one-third of the price charged by agencies.

Although the company gains profits from the yen's rise in two or three months when the products arrive in Japan, it has decided from the end of April to cut prices of about 200 drinks by 5 percent to 25 percent.

The Price Policy Division of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), however, pointed out that prices of luxury foreign brand clothes, bags and cosmetics are still more expensive in Japan compared with their original prices.

"Some of them cost at least 60 percent more in Tokyo than their original price tags in Paris and New York," a MITI official said.

"The companies handling these goods explain that the price increase result from complex reasons...Japan's higher land prices, expensive cost of distribution, relatively small sales amount," he said.

Satoko Tanaka, secretary general of the Tokyo League of the Regional Women's Organizations, said, "Price cuts will help prop up dampened personal consumption, but we must say they have not been enough.

"Companies should not miss a good chance to reduce prices," she said. "It is a matter of course."

Government Not To Cut Utilities Rates

OW2804022793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0148 GMT 28 Apr 93

["News Focus" article by Keiko Tatsuta; last in a four-part series on strong yen: "Gov't Against Cutting Utilities Rates Despite High Yen"]

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—The delay in returning windfall profits from the yen's recent sharp rise might hamper the effectiveness of the government's massive economic stimulus package, analysts say.

Despite a 12-percent gain in the value of the yen, the government appears cool to growing calls for passing on profits from the strong yen to consumers, especially to reduce government-controlled utilities charges.

International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori responded to such calls by repeating that crude oil price hikes offset profits from the yen's rise.

A senior official of the Natural Resources and Energy Agency ruled out the possibility of cutting utilities charges under the circumstances, saying, "It is not time to consider price reductions."

The official said on condition of anonymity that losses because of higher crude oil prices are bigger than profits from the stronger yen at present.

According to the official, the electric power industry set the current power rates in 1989 based on an exchange rate of 124 yen to the dollar and a crude oil price of 16.5 dollars per barrel on a cost, insurance and freight basis.

By a rough estimate, the 10 electric power companies gain 11 billion yen in a year if the yen rises by 1 yen to the dollar. But when the price of crude oil increases by 1 dollar per barrel, they lose 69 billion yen annually, the official said.

Therefore, if the dollar continues to be quoted at 110 yen in a year's time, the companies could earn profits of 154 billion yen. But since the average crude oil price during fiscal 1992 is estimated at 19.3 dollars per barrel, they have suffered losses of about 200 billion yen, he said.

There are also many other factors to affect corporate revenue, the official said, such as depreciation costs for increased investment.

An Economic Planning Agency (EPA) official said, "You should consider electric power companies' settlement of accounts at the end of this March as well."

In other sectors, analysts blame distribution methods as a major obstacle to customers benefiting from the higher yen.

"Japan's byzantine distribution system is still discouraging the smooth passing on of such profits to consumers," said Atsushi Miyawaki, senior economist at the Japan Research Institute.

Under pressure to pass on exchange-rate profits to consumers, the government seems to have reluctantly made up its mind to study ways to reduce prices, at least as far as imported products like brand goods are concerned.

With the aim of promoting that goal and stimulating personal consumption to prop up the economy, it began probing complicated distribution systems and business practices.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) started making investigations into distribution routes for brand imports such as cosmetics and bags.

Vice MITI Minister Yuji Tanahashi blamed problematic distribution channels for the little progress achieved in passing on exchange profits.

There are five or six companies involved from importing to retailing of these foreign-made products which are absorbing profits from the yen's appreciation, Tanahashi said.

The ministry plans to instruct trading houses and related companies to rationalize distribution channels based on results of the ongoing investigation.

The EPA has also monitored price movements mainly for 40 import items included in its price statistics.

But because it takes two or three months for importers to pass on exchange profits, the yen's recent appreciation has yet to produce any effect on the items' prices, EPA officials said.

Trade Ministry Reports on Mar Economic Performance

OW2804075993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0731 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Japan's industrial production in March increased for the second consecutive month, rising a seasonally adjusted 0.5 percent from the previous month, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Wednesday [28 April].

Output at factories and mines rose 2.1 percent in February after falling 0.3 percent in January and 1.3 percent in December, the ministry said in a preliminary report. On an unadjusted basis, however, production continued dropping in March for the 18th successive month of annual declines, falling 2.3 percent from a year earlier. The ministry said the series of yearly drops was the longest since the 20-month streak from may 1974 through December 1975.

Shipments in March increased for the third straight month from the previous month, rising 1.6 percent after a 2.2 percent gain in February. They were down 0.4 percent from a year earlier, however, posting the 16th consecutive month of yearly declines. The 16-month run of annual shipment drops was the longest since the 21-month series from March 1974 through November 1975, the ministry said.

March inventories declined from the previous month for the fourth straight month, down 2.2 percent after falls of 1.3 percent in February and 0.9 percent in January. On a yearly basis, they also decreased for the fourth month in a row, falling 3.3 percent. The ministry said production may continue to be dull for some time, despite some progress in liquidation of inventories. Koichi Yoshimoto, chief of the ministry's statistics analysis division, predicted that inventory adjustment may end as a whole during the April-June quarter given the current trend, although stockpiles of producer goods would take a while to clear.

Brisk demand for passenger cars and consumer electronics contributed to increases in production and shipments in March, reducing stocks of final demand goods, Yoshimoto said. But he could not say if production will recover in the April-June period because of expected output drops in April and May as a reaction to boosted sales efforts ahead of closing of the books at the end of March. There is no clear sign that capital and consumer spending will start recovering soon, he said. The ministry predicted a 2.7 percent drop for April and a 1.3 percent drop for May based on a survey conducted early this month. The ministry also reported industrial production during the January-March period fell 0.3 percent from the previous three-month period, down 4.9 percent from a year earlier.

Shipments increased 1.4 percent in the first quarter of 1993 from the previous quarter but fell 3.7 percent from a year earlier. Inventories for the first three months in 1993 dropped 4.3 percent from the October-December period and down 3.3 percent from a year before. Output during fiscal 1992, which ended March 31, posted an annual decline for the second straight year, dropping 6.2 percent. The fall was the second biggest after a 9.7 percent drop in fiscal 1974, the ministry said. Fiscal 1992 shipments fell 5.0 percent from the previous year, while inventories at the end of fiscal 1992 decreased 3.3 percent from a year earlier.

Value of Import, Export Contracts Down in 1992

OW2804105993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—The value of export and import contracts signed by Japan's major trading houses fell in fiscal 1992 from a year earlier, reflecting economic weakness in and outside Japan, a trade group said Wednesday [28 April].

In fiscal 1992, that ended March 31, export contracts shrank 2.2 percent to 14.39 trillion yen, the second consecutive yearly drop. The figures represent evidence of a global economic downturn, the Japan Foreign Trade Council said in a report covering its 19 member companies. Import contracts also dropped 11.6 percent to 15.11 trillion yen in a decline caused by a domestic economic slowdown and the yen's appreciation against the dollar. Council officials said both import and export declined for two years in a row, the first such consecutive decline since the 1985 to 1986 period. Although export contracts to China and Southeast Asia advanced, those to other regions dropped. Exports on a contracted basis to the United States fell 9.4 percent from the previous year and those to the Middle East dropped 25.2 percent.

On the import side, contracts declined in almost all regions, including a hefty 17.0 percent drop in the U.S. caused mainly by Japan's scaled-down purchase of aircraft. By product, automobile shipments dropped 1.8 percent, while steel exports, mainly pulled up by exports to China and Southeast Asia, advanced 4.3 percent. Import contracts declined in most items. Imports of grain from the U.S. and fuel imports pulled down the scale of trade, the council said. But export contracts signed in March advanced 14.3 percent from the same month last year to 2.69 trillion yen to mark the first gain since September 1992. The organization said import contracts declined 14.2 percent in March to 1.86 trillion yen for the 21st consecutive monthly drop.

Supplementary Budget To Incorporate Russia Aid

OW2804090193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—The government will appropriate 41 billion yen for aid to Russia under the fiscal 1993 supplementary budget as part of financial assistance by the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations, officials said Wednesday [28 April]. They said the budget, including 30 million dollars for a fund to foster small enterprises in Russia and 320 million dollars in grant in aid to the country, will be submitted to the Diet next month.

Foreign and finance ministers from the G-7—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States—approved creation of a 300 million dollar fund for Russia at a Tokyo meeting in mid-April. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa pledged the grant in aid at the conference. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is expected to contribute one half, or 150 million dollars, of the fund, with the G-7 nations providing the remainder. Japan will pay one-fifth of the G-7 share.

The officials said small enterprises in Russia are expected to play an important role in Russia's transition to a market economy. The grant in aid will include 100 million dollars worth of food, medicine, and other supplies, 90 million dollars worth of technical and other aid to promote transition to a market economy, and 100 million dollars worth to help dismantle nuclear weapons and prevent the dumping of nuclear waste into the sea, the officials said. The officials said the aid to Russia, as well as 146 billion yen worth of scheduled tax cuts for the fiscal year, will be compensated by special appropriations from the reserve fund of the initial fiscal 1993 budget. Revenue expected through the issue of special coins to commemorate the June 9 wedding between Crown Prince Naruhito and Masako Owada will also help fund the projects, the officials said. The tax cuts were incorporated in the government's latest pump-priming measures.

Firm Breaks Ground on 'World's Largest' Nuclear Plant

SK2804070893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 (YONHAP)—Ground was broken for the world's largest nuclear fuel reprocessing plant on 380 hectares of land in Aomori perfecture on Wednesday.

The plant, to be owned and run by Japan Nuclear Fuel Co., will have the capacity to produce 5 tons of plutonium a year when it starts operation in 2000.

Japan is the only country without nuclear weapons to build such a large reprocessing plant. It already has a uranium enrichment plant and a storage site for low-level radioactive waste built last year at a cost of upwards of 1 trillion yen.

The new plant will be able to reprocess 80 tons of used nuclear fuel yearly, or 60 percent of Japan's total, and extract an estimated 5 tons of fissionable plutonium.

The company says it plans to use the extracted plutonium as fuel for a fast breeder reactor that is now under construction. And Japan is expected to build storage facilities for used nuclear fuel.

Peacekeepers To Participate in Cambodian Election

OW2804123393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Wednesday [28 April] Japanese peacekeeping troops will participate in transporting ballot boxes from polling stations to vote counting places immediately after the May general election in Cambodia.

Miyazawa's remark was the government's first confirmation of Japan's involvement since the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) asked March 1 that Japan take part in collection of the polling boxes. Miyazawa told the plenary session of the House of Representatives that the Japanese peacekeepers will undertake the chore and a French peacekeeping infantry battalion will escort the Japanese engineering troops when actually transporting the boxes. Miyazawa did not detail how many ballot boxes are involved.

At a House of Councillors plenary session earlier in the day, the prime minister rebuffed accusations by the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) that the government is contravening its own "guidelines" governing the deployment of Japanese peacekeepers. Citing the guidelines, SDP lawmaker Jun Kioka said Japan should pull the 600-member Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) engineering unit out of Cambodia, where Khmer Rouge guerrilla forces have been stepping up attacks on UNTAC peacekeepers and election monitors. One of the five guidelines stipulates that a truce accord must be in place and honored by all rival armed factions to justify the presence of Japanese personnel.

Miyazawa replied that the Cambodian situation has not deteriorated to the point that the guidelines are being compromised. "All-out armed struggle has not yet resumed," the premier said, adding, "we cannot make an issue of the fragile aspects of the cease-fire as it was agreed upon after 13 years of war." But Miyazawa suggested that he might change his mind on the continued presence of the Japanese peacekeepers in Cambodia if truce violations continue. "If full-fledged fighting resumes, I would regard it as an important criterion for handing down a judgment (on the pullout)," Miyazawa said.

Miyazawa also referred to the security of 50 Japanese civilian election monitors being sent to Cambodia next month, saying, "the government will respect the will of each individual." Some have voiced reluctance to assume duties there. Anxiety over security has increased among volunteers and officials of sponsoring municipal governments across Japan after the April 9 slaying of civilian UN volunteer Atsuhito Nakata.

Speaking of the dispatch of a 53-member SDF contingent to Mozambique, Miyazawa said it would be engaged in "normal" SDF duties. Miyazawa said the role of the transport coordination troops in Mozambique is not equivalent to the creation of an SDF buffer zone to separate warring factions there, which is ruled out by the peacekeeping law enacted last summer.

Diet Criticizes Mozambique, Cambodia PKO Moves

OW2804070493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0609 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Government decisions to send peacekeepers and election monitors to Mozambique and Cambodia came under a barrage of criticism in an emergency parliamentary session on Wednesday.

The No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) attacked the decisions in the House of Councillors meeting, while the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) backed them.

SDP legislator Jun Kioka accused the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of contravening five government-set "guidelines" that empowered it to deploy peacekeepers.

Kioka argued that Japan should withdraw from Cambodia amid stepped up guerrilla attacks against U.N. peacekeepers.

One of the five guidelines stipulates that a truce accord must be honored by rival armed factions to justify the presence of Japanese personnel.

Miyazawa defended their presence, saying the situation in Cambodia has not deteriorated to the point that the guidelines are being compromised.

"All-out armed struggle has not yet resumed," the premier said. "We cannot make an issue of the fragile aspects of the ceasefire, as it was agreed upon after 13 years of civil war."

But he hinted that the government may alter its position on withdrawal if truce violations continue.

"If full-fledged fighting resumes, I would regard it as an important standard for handing down a judgment (on the pullout matter)," Miyazawa said.

On the security of 50 Japanese civilian election monitors being sent to Cambodia next month, Miyazawa said, "The government will respect the will of each individual." Some have voiced reluctance to assume duties there.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono told a news conference earlier that "the government is still trying to confirm the will of would-be participants. There are some who are requesting time to reconsider earlier decisions and whom the government cannot contact any more."

The government recruited 50 civilian monitors from among volunteers and officials of municipal governments across Japan.

The April 9 shooting of civilian monitor Atsuhito Nakata sent shockwaves through Japan and caused many volunteers to voice doubts about the Cambodia mission.

On the parliamentary floor, both the SDP's Kioka and JCP legislator Toshiko Hayashi blasted the planned dispatch of peacekeepers to Mozambique as a violation of a law banning Japanese personnel from joining U.N. peacekeeping activities that may involve the use of force.

The legislators argued that the planned participation of five Self-Defense Forces officers among the commanders of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mozambique could involve military force.

Miyazawa defended the involvement by SDF officers, saying it was a natural function of their duties. The Japanese contingent to Mozambique, including the five officers, numbers 53. They will be there to coordinate the delivery of U.N. transport vehicles from May 6 to November 30.

Municipal Officials Decline UNTAC Monitor Job

OW2804143693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1419 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Six Japanese municipal government officials have declined to work in Cambodia as monitors for the May 23-28 general election out of fear of the growing number of guerrilla attacks there, KYODO NEWS SERVICE learned Wednesday.

Two officials from gunma prefecture and one each from iwate, Miyagi, Kanagawa and Aichi Prefectures have asked the government to drop their names from the list of election monitors. But 13 other officials, hailing from 11 prefectures, are determined to take on the job, KYODO learned. Of the 13 still willing to go, three are from Kumamoto Prefecture and one each is from Miyagi, Ibaraki, Saitama, Tokyo, Yamanashi, Nagano, Shizuoka, Aichi, Okayama and Kagoshima Prefectures. One other local official, from Akita Prefecture, has yet to decide whether to join the 22,000-member UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) as an election monitor but is reportedly not likely to take part in the operation. In addition, one private volunteer has withdrawn from the election monitoring team. The 20 local government officials had earlier been recommended by their prefectures for the job.

On Tuesday [27 April], the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa announced a decision to go ahead with the plan to send 50 persons—20 municipal officials as well as 30 central government officials and private volunteers to monitor the election in Cambodia. They are to work in Cambodia from mid-May to early June. Over the past few months, Khmer Rouge guerrilla forces have been stepping up attacks on UNTAC peacekeepers and election monitors.

Miyazawa To Discuss Cambodia With Keating, Bolger

OW2404070393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will use his upcoming trip to Australia and New Zealand to reaffirm Japan's cooperation with the two countries in supporting peace in Cambodia, government sources said Saturday.

Miyazawa will visit the two countries for four days from next Thursday for talks with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating next Friday and New Zealand Prime Minister James Bolger on May 1. In his talks with Keating and Bolger, Miyazawa will reaffirm cooperative relations between Japan and the two countries to support a U.N.-sponsored general election in Cambodia on May 23-28 as part of efforts to stabilize the entire Asia-Pacific region, the sources said.

Miyazawa will compare notes with the two countries' leaders on Asia-Pacific issues before the July 7-9 Tokyo economic summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries, the sources said. Other political issues to be discussed, the sources said, include U.N. efforts to hold an election in Cambodia and Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping activities in Cambodia.

Also on the agenda will be North Korea's recent decision to pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, stabilization of the Asia-Pacific region in the post-Cold War era, and ways to bolster the role of the United Nations, the sources said.

On the economic front, Miyazawa is expected to discuss with Keating and Bolger the need to bring the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to a successful conclusion. Miyazawa will also discuss the role of the 15-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum for senior government officials to promote trade and development around the Pacific rim, the sources said.

Miyazawa will be the first Japanese premier to visit Australia since 1988, when then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita went there, and the first to go to New Zealand since 1985, when then Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone made a trip to the country. Since becoming premier in November 1991, Miyazawa has visited South Korea, Southeast Asian countries and the United States. His trip to Australia and New Zealand will be formally approved by the cabinet Tuesday.

Survey: Executives Urge Revision of Article 9

OW2104134693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1309 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—More than 40 percent of member executives responding to a survey by Japan's top business group believe Japan should soften its constitutional ban on the use of military force to resolve international conflicts, according to results released Wednesday.

The finding was made public when Masaya Miyoshi, director general of the Secretariat of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), reported the results of a survey of its member executives to the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Keidanren sent questionnaires in mid-March to 205 business leaders, of whom 123 responded, or 60 percent.

Miyoshi also told the LDP panel on constitutional affairs that about 50 responding industrialists believe Japan "should strengthen its contributions to establish international peace by revising Article 9 of the Constituion."

About 48 called for enhancing Japan's contributions to international efforts to resolve regional conflicts by applying an easier government interpretation of Article 9 without altering its actual wording.

Article 9, which bans the use of force to solve international disputes, has drawn criticism from some LDP hawks as a provision which places curbs on Japan's dispatch of Self-Defense Forces to various regions affected by security problems. Political analysts said the survey results imply that some 80 percent of the executives responding regard the article as in some way restricting proposals to enhance Japan's contributions to the international community's peacemaking efforts, political analysts said.

Miyoshi called on the panel to "activate public debate on this constitutional issue" without making a predetermined conclusion that the Constitution should be altered.

Finance Officials Leave for Financial Talks in U.S.

OW2804023993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0210 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., April 28 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi and Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno left for Washington on Wednesday morning to attend a series of international financial meetings.

The meetings start Thursday, when finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations are expected to discuss the volatile currency market, the world economy and aid to Russia.

Hayashi indicated Tuesday that he may urge Japan's G-7 partners—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States—to join in Japanese efforts to rein in the yen's surge, which has hoisted the currency by 12 percent against the U.S. dollar this year.

Following the G-7 gathering, Hayashi and Mieno also will attend joint meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank starting Friday before returning home Sunday.

Miyazawa, Ministers To Go Abroad During Golden Week

OW2804090293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who will pay a four-day visit to Australia and New Zealand from Thursday [29 April], is one of 12 cabinet members going abroad during the golden week holiday period.

Justice Minister Masaharu Gotoda and Post and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi are both scheduled to visit China, while Foreign Minister Kabun Muto will travel to Mexico and Venezuela. Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi left for the United States Wednesday [28 April] morning to participate in a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized nations and joint meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and then visit the Philippines. International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori and Education Minister Mayumi

Moriyama will go on tours of Asia, each visiting three nations. The directors general of the Defense Agency, the Economic Planning Agency and the Science and Technology Agency are bound for the U.S. Yuya Niwa, health and welfare minister, and Taikan Hayashi, director general of the Environment Agency, will make separate visits to European countries.

But while 81 House of Representatives members went abroad last year, only 50 are leaving the country during the April 29 to May 9 Diet recess, reportedly in anticipation of a parliamentary dissolution soon after Golden Week. "It wouldn't be a wonder at all, if something happened at the end of the holiday," said an Obuchi faction member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). General elections have to be called by February 1994. Among legislators going abroad are House of Representatives speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi, LDP Policy Affairs Research Council head Hiroshi Mitsuzuka and faction leader Keizo Obuchi.

Tokyo To Seek Data on Russian Nuclear Waste Dumping

OW2804154393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1455 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Japan will urge Russia next month to provide detailed information on the whereabouts of dumping sites of nuclear submarine reactors and other radioactive waste, government sources said Wednesday [28 April]. Japan will file the request in an expert level meeting in Moscow on May 11 and 12, the sources said. Experts from the Science and Technology Agency and the Foreign Ministry will represent Japan at the meeting, the sources said.

Japan will demand that Russia provide information on the exact whereabouts of two submarine reactors which the Russian Government said were dumped in the Sea of Japan, as well as on other dumping sites of radioactive waste, they said. The Japanese experts will also seek data on the quantities and type of radioactive substances dumped into the Sea of Japan, they said.

A Russian Government report earlier said the former Soviet Union and Russia continued to dump solid and liquid radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan off the Russian port of Vladivostok and off the Kamchatka Peninsula from 1959 until 1992. But it stopped short of revealing the precise sites of the dumping, they said.

The Japanese experts will also seek Russian consent for conducting joint research in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk to cope with the negative effects of the dumping on the environment, they said. The Japanese side wants to obtain Russian collaboration in setting up a long-term monitoring system on the effects of radioactivity released into the marine environment, they said.

The Russian Government said recently it would continue to jettison radioactive waste at sea even after Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto denounced the practice and demanded an immediate halt to the dumping. The Russian side cited the lack of land-based nuclear waste facilities as the reason for its inability to bring a halt to the maritime dumping.

At the upcoming meeting the Japanese and Russian sides will discuss possible technical cooperation on how to reprocess nuclear waste on land, as well as how to coordinate possible construction of waste reprocessing facilities in Russian territory, they added.

Russia Pays $5.2 Million Loan Interest to 9 Firms

OW2804144093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1344 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Russia has paid 5.2 million dollars to nine Japanese trading houses in the first interest payment on a total of 330 million dollars in loans the former Soviet Union owed them, sources in Japan's trading industry said Wednesday.

They said the payment may ease worries among Japanese industries over possible delays of payments in trade with Russia and greatly improve business relations with Russia. Japanese industries have been reported to be shy of expanding business in Russia due to such concerns. The loans were part of uncollected payments for sales to the former Soviet Union by the nine Japanese trading houses, including Mitsubishi Corp. and Mitsui and Co.

As a result of the collapse of the communist superpower, the state-run organizations which were supposed to pay the Japanese trading houses disappeared and thus payment had been delayed. Last year, the nine trading houses converted 330 million dollars worth of unpaid bills into a collective financial claim through Japanese commercial banks. Wednesday was the first due date for interest payments on the converted loans. According to an estimate by Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Russia owes about 1,360 million dollars to Japan in unpaid trade bills.

Officials of the nine Japanese trading houses praised Wednesday's payment, saying it makes the entire business situation a lot easier, when coupled with the additional assistance for Russia agreed in the latest meeting of the Group of Seven major industrialized nations and a possible Japan visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin next month.

MITI Grants Trade Insurance to Kazakhstan

OW2604092493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) decided Monday [26 April] to extend trade insurance worth some 300 million dollars to Kazakhstan on condition it set up reliable repayment procedures, MITI officials said.

MITI Minister Yoshiro Mori conveyed the decision to visiting Kazakh Economic Minister Beysenbay Izteleuov during a bilateral meeting, the officials said.

It is the first credit line provided by Japan to a former Soviet republic, excluding Russia, they said.

Kazakhstan is rich in natural resources such as oil, gas and nonferrous metal, making the country potentially lucrative for business dealings in the energy sector, the officials said. They added, however, that no negotiations for specific projects were underway at present.

Mori also told Izteleuov that Japan will send an economic cooperation mission of government and private business representatives to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan from June 6 to 13, they said.

The mission is aimed at proposing specific joint projects for setting industrial policies and the conversion of the country's military industry into civilian purposes, they said.

Meanwhile, Czech Republic's Economic Minister Karel Dyba called on Japan to open an office of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in Prague during a meeting with Mori, they said.

Dyba also asked for Japan's assistance in establishing an export-import bank and restructuring the nation's enterprises, they said.

North Korea

KCNA Denies Existence of Chemical Weapons Capability

SK2804112393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1111 GMT 28 Apr 93

["DPRK Has No Chemical Weapon Plant"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—There is no chemical weapon plant posing a threat to mankind in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which has consistently pursued a peaceloving policy.

This is our clear answer to a false report of the German news weekly FOCUS.

According to a South Korean subsidized radio and KYONGHYANG SINMUN, the German news weekly on April 26, quoting "analytical data" of the German External Intelligence Agency, carried a fantastic report that "North Korea might unleash a war with chemical weapons" and that "there are eight chemical weapon plants in North Korea."

This is a totally unfounded false propaganda and a smear campaign against the DPRK.

The DPRK had clarified long ago that it would not engage in testing for the development of chemical weapons and their production, stockpile and introduction, and has made efforts to this end.

It is fact known to the world that the DPRK which sets store by international law and has complied with it in good faith has no chemical weapon.

It doe not make sense that the DPRK with no chemical weapon plant and chemical weapons will start a "war" with "chemical weapons."

It is South Korea that must be listed when the chemical weapon plant and chemical weapons come into question.

It is an open secret that South Korea has some ten toxic gas plants and 25,000 boxes of chemical weapons.

While keeping mum about this fact, the German weekly fabricated a fiction and spread false rumours against the DPRK, obviously for a sinister purpose—a sinister ruse to mislead world public, isolate and stifle the DPRK and encourage the "pressure" campaign of the U.S. imperialists and reactionaries over nuclear problem.

Paid media of South Korea do not lag behind in false propaganda. It is shameless of the South Korean subsidized radio and KYONGHYANG SINMUN to relay the report of the German weekly while knowing it is false, with a view to doing harm to the DPRK.

The German weekly and the paid media of South Korea will get nothing from false propaganda. If any, it will be criticism and ridicule from the progressives.

'Sources': Troop Movements Reported Around Capital

OW2804095993 Tokyo KYODO In English 0948 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Beijing, April 28 KYODO—Large scale military movements have been detected around the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, Western military sources here said Wednesday [28 April]. The movements were first detected Tuesday [27 April] evening and parts of the city have also apparently been closed off, the sources said. They did not specify the source of the information, but it appears to have been grasped from military reconnaissance satellites. A western diplomatic source from Pyongyang, however, said that central Pyongyang was tranquil and no troop movements had been witnessed.

Meanwhile, South Korea's YONHAP NEWS AGENCY reported Tuesday [27 April] that analysts believe the health of 81-year-old North Korean President Kim Il-song may be deteriorating rapidly. South Korean Government sources said Kim seemed to be in poor health, judging from his appearences on television recently and other information, YONHAP reported.

Reaction to Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal Issue Continues

U.S. Move for Sanctions Protested

SK2804051493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 28 Apr 93

["Arbitrary Practice Must Not Be Allowed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—The U.S. arbitrary practice must not be allowed any longer in the international arena, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

Recalling that the United States is trying to stifle the socialist system of Korea through collective "sanctions" against it on the absurd charge of "noncompliance with the safeguards agreement" by setting in-motion some officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency and its followers, the article says:

The United States is now arguing for "sanctions" while putting strong-arm pressure on the DPRK which refused to meekly comply with its demand. This vividly reveals the brigandish nature and despotism of those who stoop to any infamy in their attempt to attain their dirty aim, disregarding even the elementary provisions of international law.

It is none other than the United States that must be brought to sit in the dock today.

The United States has presented a grave nuclear threat to the DPRK after deploying a large number of nuclear weapons in South Korea.

It has made whatever nuclear weapons it wanted to and deployed them wherever they pleased to threaten non-nuclear states, not minding the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It has never honored the safeguards agreement and the treaty of the agency. Yet it is not subject to control by any one, nor to any international restrictions.

Noting that the United States has committed numerous acts of aggression against other countries including Panama, Grenada, Libya and Cuba under various brigandish pretexts in the past, the article goes on:

U.S. arbitrary practice is based on its "logic of strength".

But it is intolerable.

To check it is an important requisite to safeguarding independence and defending world peace and security on the part of each country.

It is important for every and each country to keep to the revolutionary principle and unite internationally in frustrating the high-handed attempts of the United States to oppress other countries and bring them under its control with strong-arm.

The United States must look foursquare at the present times and stop acting insolently and correct its self-opinionated and high-handed thinking pattern of looking down on other countries and reigning over them.

UNSC Urged To Help Realize U.S. Talks

SK2804092493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1730 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Unattributed talk: "One Should Not Go Astray From the Principle of International Justice and Fairness"]

[Text] The UN Security Council [UNSC] on 9 April announced its chairman's statement in connection with our so-called nuclear issue after holding unofficial talks.

Expressing concern with the prevailing situation pertaining to our withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], the statement said that it welcomes all efforts to settle this situation and it encourages the continuation of the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] negotiations with us.

As was illustrated by the recent talks, the UN Security Council is not the place where such issues as our nonexistent nuclear issue are to be discussed.

The basic mission of the UN Security Council is to discuss acts of destroying or threatening peace and security of the world. Our withdrawal from the NPT and issues raised in implementing the safeguards accord are the issues related to one's sovereign rights, and cannot be an act of destroying global peace and of threatening the security of other countries.

If suspicion of our nuclear development poses a threat to peace and security in the world, the nuclear weapons which undisguisedly actually exist in other countries will pose several hundred times more grave threat.

If the UN Security Council is to handle the nuclear issue from the standpoint of bearing the responsibility for peace and security in the world, it should deservedly bring up an issue [munjesi hada] with the United States which developed nuclear weapons for the first time in the world and which possesses them most.

Moreover, today when the cold war has ended, the United States has strained the situation on the Korean peninsula to an extreme point by resuming the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a nuclear war exercise which had already been suspended. The United States and some circles in the IAEA secretariat infringed upon the sovereign rights and security of non-nuclear nations by abusing even the IAEA's regulations and safeguards accord. How can such illegal acts by them be ignored in the UN Security Council?

The UN Security Council should not go astray from the principle of international justice and fairness. We are the very victims who already suffered nuclear threat and whose sovereign rights were infringed upon, and the offenders [kahaeja] are none other than the United States and some circles in the IAEA that are under U.S. manipulation.

If the UN Security Council looks idly on the offenders just because they are Western big countries and their follower forces and if it looks down on the victims and takes no account of them just because they are small countries, the small nations in the third world will no longer trust the incumbent UN Security Council in the future.

As we explicitly stated on many occasions in the past, there is no change in our position to sincerely fulfill the obligations stipulated in the Nuclear Safeguards Accord and our position to resolve raised problems through negotiations is consistent.

Even on 30 March, we repeatedly proposed for negotiations concerning the implementation of the IAEA safeguards accord.

We hope that the IAEA even now revokes its unjust resolution, which concocted our failure in implementing the safeguards accord, and will respond to our negotiation proposal.

The ringleader who intensified the nuclear threat to us and forced us to withdraw from the NPT is the United States and the one who manipulated the IAEA so as to abuse the safeguards accord is the United States. Therefore, the ultimate solution of this issue depends on DPRK-U.S. negotiations.

What the UN Security Council can do in connection with our nuclear issue is to work out actual steps to make the United States fulfill its responsibility and obligations by coming to negotiations with us.

We hope that the UN Security Council will precisely act in conformity with the demand of the current situation and with the principle of international justice so that it will not take the same reckless course in which it left a stain in dealing with the Korean issue in the past.

Overseas Missions Criticize IAEA

SK2704143593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The news conferences were held at our country's embassies in Portugal and Indonesia on 16, 19 April in connection with our so-called nuclear issue.

The figures from the press and publication domain of the relevant countries attended the news conference.

At the news conference, the ambassadors spoke first. They denounced unjust acts of the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], which is following the United States, for having brought our so-called nuclear issue to the United Nations. They said that the purpose of the United States and the IAEA is to stifle [apsal] our socialist system by internationalizing the nuclear issue.

The ambassadors said that if the United Nations tries to impose so-called collective sanctions on us, we cannot but take a self-defensive step corresponding to this. They asserted that if the United States is truly interested in resolving the issue, it should not manipulate the IAEA and its following nations behind the scene but respond to dialogue and negotiations with us.

The ambassadors pointed out that the trustee states of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, including the United States and its follower nations, are raving about suspicions of our nonexistent nuclear development while ignoring the actually existing danger of nuclear weapons, thus creating instability in the world and this region. This is indeed ridiculous.

They exposed the fact that the former Soviet Union and Russia dumped nuclear wastes in our country's East Sea, and stressed that Russia should properly handle its own nuclear issue instead of interfering in others' business.

The ambassadors mentioned the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the fatherland published by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. Following this, the ambassadors answered questions raised by correspondents.

Kim Chong-il Sends Message to Jiang Zemin

SK2804114093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1113 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a reply message to Comrade Jiang Zemin, chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China, on April 26.

The message reads:

I express deep thanks to you for your warm congratulations to me upon my election as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish you greater success in your work, believing that the relations of traditional friendship and cooperation between our two peoples and armies will grow stronger and develop.

Kim Il-song Discusses Military Parade With Yi In-mo

SK2804070193 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song today went to a subhospital of the Korean Red Cross general hospital and visited Comrade Yi In-mo, who is receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

The great leader warmly embraced Comrade Yi In-mo and specifically inquired about the treatment he was receiving and the state of his health and offered warm words of consolation. [passage omitted]

The great leader warmly told Comrade Yi In-mo: You should try hard to get over your illness and recover your health as soon as possible so you can attend the military parade to mark the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War [which falls on 27 July]. [passage omitted]

Yi In-mo Family Visits KPA Unit

SK2404051293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 24 (KCNA)—The family of Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and the incarnation of faith and will, visited comrade Yi Song's unit of the KPA Friday at his request.

Yi In-mo returned to the socialist motherland on March 19 after undergoing inhuman persecution for over 40 years in South Korea.

Yi In-mo who is now receiving medical treatment aften talks about his old comrades-in-arms, saying he wanted to meet soldiers as he was greeting the day of the Korean People's Army for the first time in the socialist motherland.

He asked his family to visit soldiers on his behalf, saying "the Army must be strong, if we are to be a good guard for General Kim Il-song."

His wife Kim Sun-im and other family members arrived at the unit carrying his wish.

Soldiers presented flowers to them while Yi's family handed to the soldiers a silk banner bearing the letters "national reunification" and hanging-scrolls reading "a-match-for-a-hundred" and "Army-people unity", sharing warm feelings.

The family was briefed on the guidance of the combat and political training of the soldiers of the unit by the Great Leader President Kim Il-song and Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army Comrade Kim Chong-il, their deep loving care and solicitude for the soldiers and the history of the unit.

It saw soldiers' training and congratulated them on their preparation, each to be a match for a hundred foes.

Yi's family had a talk with the soldiers at a significant joint gathering.

Yi In-mo Named Honorary MINJU CHOSON Journalist

SK2404045793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 24 (KCNA)—A former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will who returned to the embrace of the socialist motherland on March 19, was registered as an honorary journalist of MINJU CHOSON.

The journalists and editors of MINJU CHOSON recently held a meeting to register Yi In-mo as an honorary journalist and follow his example.

A report by Kim Chong-suk, editor-in-chief of MINJU CHOSON, was followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers recalled that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il took positive measures for the repatriation of Yi In-mo to the socialist motherland and showed deep loving care for him after his return home.

They vowed to bring about a new change in newspaper service to defend and further exalt the Korean-style socialism by taking over the pen of revolution from Yi In-mo.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

The meeting sent a letter to Yi In-mo.

'Friendly City Relations' Established With Syria

SK2804050193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—A gathering was held Tuesday to mark the 47th anniversary of the independence of Syria and establish friendly city relations between Wonsan, Kangwon Province and Latakia, Syria.

Speeches were made there by chairman of the Wonsan City Administrative and Economic Committee Yi Chang-u and Syrian Ambassador to Korea Yasir Farah.

The establishment of friendly city relations between Wonsan and Latakia was declared at the gathering.

A congratulatory letter to Syrian president Hafiz Al-Asad was adopted.

And a silk banner sent by the Wonsan City Administrative and Economic Committee to the Latakia city council was conveyed.

South Said To Stage 'Hwarang' Exercise From 26 Apr

SK2704052093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0417 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 27 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities reportedly decided to stage a "counter-espionage exercise" codenamed "Hwarang" in South Korean Kangwon and North Kyongsang Provinces and in Taegu from April 26 to May 1.

They announced that the exercise would involve the puppet reserve forces, police, the "Homeland Defence Division," "civilian defence forces," "public servants" and agents serving in major establishments, hundreds of thousands in all.

They blared that it would be a "defensive exercise aimed at detecting quickly irregular combat units" which might be hurled into the rear from the North in wartime and in peacetime.

No sooner had the "Team Spirit 93" joint manoeuvres, a nuclear war game against the North, ended than they began the "Hwarang" military exercise taking the North as the imaginary enemy. This indicates that contact and dialogue that had been on their lips are a lie and they have no willingness for reunification.

Dailies Denounce 'War Game'

SK2804063093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 28 Apr 93

[""Hwarang" War Game in S. Korea Under Fire"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today come out with commentaries regarding the announcement of the South Korean "Defence Ministry" that a war game dubbed "Hwarang" would be staged from April 26 to May 1 as a joint exercise of "Civilian, Government and Army".

It must not go unnoticed that the anti-national force of South Korea has mobilized even the civilian population in another war exercise against the DPRK, a NODONG SINMUN analyst says, and goes on:

The South Korean brasshats do not bother to conceal that the training is being held in an atmosphere of real war in which shells and bullets are used and even "counteraction troops" in "enemy" commando uniform are participating.

The "Hwarang" war game suggests that the anti-national force of South Korea are intending to continue joining force with outside forces against the fellow countrymen, challenging the nation's aspirations.

The training is aimed at dampening the sentiments for reunification mounting in South Korea with every passing day, inciting hostility and consciousness of confrontation among the people against the North and, for the present, keeping off the influence of the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation.

If the anti-national force of South Korea continue to take the anti-peace, anti-reunification road by following outside forces, they can never go scotfree.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst says it is a criminal act of casting damp over the desire of the nation for reunification that the South Korean authorities are staging war games against fellow countrymen in succession and inciting a war fever among the people.

KCNA Reports Formation of South's 'Hanchongnyon'

SK2804055193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0417 GMT 28 Apr 93

["Hanchongnyon Inaugurated To Replace Chondaehyop"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—The South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), the successor to the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), was formally inaugurated, according to a radio report from Seoul.

Delegates met at Chonbuk National University in Chonju on April 25 for its inauguration.

The meeting was attended by chairmen of General Student Councils and some 1,800 delegates from 180 odd universities and colleges of South Korea and students affiliated with the North Cholla Provincial Student Council, more than 6,000 in all.

On the second day of the meeting, chairman of the Hanyang University General Student Council Kim Chae-yong was elected first chairman of Hanchongnyon.

As reported, Chondaehyop formally declared its developmental dissolution and formed a preparatory committee to build Hanchongnyon at a general meeting of delegates which was held at Kyonghui University in Seoul late in March.

The preparatory committee had declared that Hanchongnyon would set it as its major action program to struggle for the release of prisoners of conscience, the abolition of the "National Security Law" and against "Team Spirit" war games, and develop the reunification movement into a mass movement.

Thai Parliamentary Delegation Continues Visit

Meets Kim Il-song

SK2804114393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1102 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting delegation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand led by its President Marut Bunnak.

Present on the occasion were Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, Yu Ho-chun, member of the standing committee of the SPA, and Cho Kyu-il, vice-minister of foreign affairs.

President Kim Il-song had a cordial and friendly talk with the guests.

Presents Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK2804113893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1103 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the delegation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand staying in Korea.

The gift was handed to chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop by president of the National Assembly Marut Bunnak who is leading the delegation.

Presents Gift for Kim Il-song

SK2804113593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1105 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from the visiting delegation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Marut Bunnak, president of the National Assembly, who is leading the delegation, handed the gift to Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Paper Views South Africa After Hani's Death

SK2604111893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 26 Apr 93

["Terrorist Policy Doomed to Failure"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 26 (KCNA)—No positive steps have been taken in South Africa to probe the truth behind the assassination of the general secretary of the South African Communist Party and punish those involved in it, a MINJU CHOSON analyst Sunday says, and goes on:

This is a downright challenge to justice and truth and an open defence of terrorism.

The brutal assassination on April 10 of Chris Hani who had been devoting his whole life to the fight for people's freedom and liberation and against racism is a product of the barbarian terrorist policy of the South African white racists.

The situation in South Africa proves that the ultra rightwing elements are working hard to ostracise revolutionary and progressive forces and stamp out the people's liberation movement by means of political terrorism.

Those who try to arrest the cause of independence through all manner of terrorism are bound to face a stern judgement by history.

Officials at Moscow Meeting Congratulate Kim Chong-il

SK2404104593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—A meeting was held in Moscow on April 22 to congratulate Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, on his election as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Present there were Vladimir Tolstikov, chairman of the Central Council of the Association for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and vice-chairmen, secretary general and other officials of the association, Yi Tong-chol, chairman of the Russian committee for the promotion of Korean reunification, veterans and pressmen.

The chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Association for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with the DPRK and its Vice-chairman Viktor Platov made speeches at the meeting.

The speakers said that the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK was a historical event in inheriting and accomplishing the revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

They said dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is an outstanding leader of the party and the state.

They expressed the belief that the fraternal friendship between the peoples of Russia and Korea would overcome all trials and temporary obstacles and develop along a new track and strongly denounced the provocative attempt of the enemies of the DPRK to interfere in its affairs.

They fully supported the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for Reunification of the country" worked out by President Kim Il-song.

Information Delegation Leaves for Malaysia

SK2404124293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1124 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 24 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Information Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by its chairman Kim Ki-yong left Pyongyang today to visit Malaysia.

It was seen off at Pyongyang Railway Station by its Vice-chairman Song Pong-son.

Foreign Military Attaches Visit Defense Ministry

SK2404005193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1607 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 23 (KCNA)—Military attaches of different embassies here today visited the Ministry of People's Armed Forces and warmly congratulated it on the 61st founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army.

The guests were met by Vice Marshal of the KPA Kim Pong-yul and generals and officers of the KPA.

On behalf of the military attaches' corps, Cuban Military Attache Emilio Morales Ssegui said the heroic Korean People's Army founded by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song won victories in the fights against the Japanese and the U.S. imperialists and is creditably fulfilling its responsibility and role as the defender of the great idea and the socialist cause.

"We wish the heroic Korean People's Army holding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as its supreme commander greater success in the struggle to increase the defence capability of the country and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country," he noted.

Daily Urges Correct Execution of State Budget

SK2204145793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0021 GMT 22 Apr 93

[NODONG SINMUN 22 April editorial: "Let Us Correctly Execute the State Budget for This Year"]

[Text] The Fifth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly took place at a solemn period when all the people across the country, filled with confidence and the fighting spirit, are vigorously accelerating the grand march to bring new changes in socialist economic construction with the struggle spirit which was displayed during the days of the stern war. The session adopted the pertinent bill based on the deliberation on the second agenda item, On the Settlement of the Execution of the DPRK State Budget for 1992 and On the State Budget for 1993.

As the session proudly summed up, last year, all our party members and workers achieved brilliant labor feats in socialist economic construction under the party's wise leadership and, thus, further consolidated the basis of the self-reliant national economy and vigorously displayed the superiority of the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style. Because brilliant achievements were brought about in socialist economic construction last year, the country's self-reliant financial basis was further strengthened, and therefore, the state budget was successfully executed. This demonstrates the people-oriented character and great vitality of our country's state budget, which is based on the self-reliant socialist national economy and which financially pushes the development of this economy financially.

All proud victories and achievements that were brought about last year in socialist construction and the execution of the state budget are the results from the fact that our party brilliantly elucidated roads on which our people should embark and wisely led revolution and construction to a brilliant victory.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We must vigorously accelerate socialist economic construction this year and, thus, further consolidate the self-reliant economic basis and speedily improve the people's material and cultural lives.

Vigorously accelerating socialist economic construction and successfully executing the state budget for this year is an honorable and worthwhile task to consolidate our country's socialist system, defend and maintain the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style, and highly display its superiority.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the historic victory of war. When all the people across countries rise up to continuously raise the flames of great upsurges in socialist economic construction, can they successfully execute the state budget for this year and decorate the meaningful month of February brilliantly.

As the session stressed unanimously, the state budget for this year was mapped out under dynamic and realistic plans based on the militant tasks—which the great leader presented in his New Year address—and our party's strategic policies. In hearty response to the party's intention to score great upsurges in revolution and construction, all the officials and workers in all the fields of the people's economy must rise up to successfully execute the people's economic plan and the state budget for this year.

To vigorously accelerate our march movement and successfully execute the state budget for this year, all the officials and workers must, first of all, continuously and vigorously wage the struggle to score upsurges in socialist economic construction without slackening the spirits which they displayed during the state of semi-war. Today, the tasks assigned to us are massive. The complicated and tense situation and our massive tasks demand that based on a high revolutionary spirit, all the officials and workers accelerate socialist economic construction with the spirit which they displayed during the state of semi-war.

All the officials and workers must resolutely reject even the slightest hint of easy-going attitude, always work in a tense and combative manner, and score great upsurges in socialist economic construction. Adhering to socialist principles in economic guidance and management and thoroughly implementing the Taean work system is an important requirement for accelerating economic construction and highly displaying the superiority of the socialist economy.

All the state economic agencies and plants and enterprises must strengthen economic activities, economic organizational work, and unified command in compliance with the Taean work system, a socialist economic management system, and, thus, normalize production on a high level by efficiently utilizing the existing economic basis.

For all the fields and units to carry out their assigned people's economic plans without a hitch is an important guarantee for endlessly developing the economy and successfully executing the state budget by positively demonstrating the superiority of the socialist planned economy. All the economic agencies and plants and enterprises must concentrate their energy on executing the people's economic plan, which is like the state's law, without a hitch, responsibly carry out guidance in production and supply work, and solve problems on their own initiative. In particular, economic guidance officials must correctly carry out production organization work in compliance with actual conditions, scrupulously carry out labor, equipment, and materials management, and manage and operate the economy based on scientific calculations. In this way, they must effect economic efficiencies in production and construction to the maximum.

All the officials and workers must vigorously wage the struggle to increase production and carry out a conservation campaign not to waste even a man-day or a gram of materials but substantially operate the nation's economy.

The great leader presented the plan on the local budget system 20 years ago. Local administrative and economic offices must vigorously organize and mobilize the party members and workers in the struggle to more vigorously carry out the movement to win the title of exemplary county in the local budget system. They must also positively mobilize reserves and possibilities in local areas to score great innovations in the production of 3 August people's consumer goods and, thus, increase local budget revenues and responsibly manage the local economy.

Improving the roles and functions of the socialist financial system is an important task for accelerating economic construction and successfully executing the state budget. All financial officials in economic agencies and plants and enterprises must implement revolutionary principles on socialist financial management and thoroughly establish rules and order under which they do financial management under unified plans and under the state's unified guidance. They must more completely establish the system for daily summation of production and finance, a superior financial summation system of our own style and a popular masses-centered enterprise management and operation method that our party created. They must do this after closely linking it to the movement to win the title of exemplary work team in production and conservation and efficiently use resources, fuels, and materials and even a penny.

Party organizations of all levels in the people's economy must better carry out organizational and political work in compliance with the heightened spirits of all party members and workers, thoroughly execute the state budget for this year, and score great changes in the execution of the people's economic plan.

Union Federation Meets in North Hwanghae Province

SK2704131893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 21 April 93

[Text] A national meeting of propaganda functionaries of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea [GFTUK] was held at North Hwanghae Provincial Cultural Hall on 20 April. This is aimed at making the board popular masses firmly unite around the party by further strengthening the trade unions' works.

Comrade Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, relevant functionaries, and other GFTUK propaganda functionaries attended the meeting.

Following GFTUK Central Committee Vice Chairman Kim Yong-nam's report, discussions were made in the meeting.

The reporters and debaters said: The people throughout the country are happy and take pride in grandly celebrating the festival April National Holiday as festival for all mankind, upholding Comrade Kim Chong-il, dear leader of our party and people, as chairman of the DPRK Defense Commission. They vigorously accelerate the march movement, overflowing with a firm faith in the victory of the socialist cause and a high revolutionary zeal of resolutely safeguarding and adhering to the socialism of our own style. Under these circumstances, the national meeting of GFTUK propaganda functionaries is held.

They said: The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has focused deep attention on the trade union's works. He has set for the tasks and the means for their implementation arising in carrying out trade unions' ideological works in each period and each stage of developing revolution. Also, he has energetically led trade unions so that a new upsurge can be effected in their works.

They talked about achievements attained in the trade union's ideological and educational works over the past period under our party's wise leadership and care. They expressed that they would resolve to further strengthen the ideological and educational works for trade union members under the party's leadership in conformity with the demands of the prevailing situation.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: To vigorously carry out ideological revolution, the trade union organizations must strengthen the ideological and educational work for the working class and their members.

Reporters and debaters said: A very complicated and acute situation has been created today due to the imperialists' anti-republic and anti-socialist maneuvers. Therefore, our party and people are assigned with the important and responsible tasks of more vigorously accelerating our revolutionary cause by firmly adhering to the socialist cause and the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea.

They have expounded plans to strengthen the ideological and educational work for trade union members, and said: First of all, trade union propaganda functionaries must properly organize and carry out the indoctrination work on the dear leader's immortal achievements and greatness, based on transforming all trade union organizations after the chuche idea. As a result, they should make trade union members become the strong chuche-oriented communist revolutionaries who are endlessly loyal to the party and the leader.

They said: All trade union members should firmly trust in and follow the great Comrade leader and the dear Comrade leader to the end as their spiritual pillar by practically carrying out the indoctrination works on chuche idea principle, loyalty, and benevolence (undok) and should be loyal and dutiful to them.

Also, they said that all trade union members should positively carry out the indoctrination works that can safeguard and adhere to the socialist cause, and stressed: The education for socialism and patriotism should be strengthened among trade union members so that they can be fully aware of the superiority of socialism of our own style. Therefore, propaganda functionaries should constantly pay deep attention to the indoctrination work of making trade union members love and value organizations and groups.

They said that they would more vigorously conduct "For-our-plant-and-our-post campaign" in all sectors and units by establishing social ethos that regards the Army as important and by bring the traditional traits of unity between the Army and people into full bloom.

They said that the working class and trade union members would become lifeguards and death-defying corps in implementing the party's lines and policies, and that they would become the fortress and shield that follow and uphold only the party.

A resolution was adopted at the meeting.

Religious Figures Support Reunification Program

SK2504112593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0906 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 25 (KCNA)—The "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" worked out by the great leader President Kim Il-song is a banner of patriotism for achieving unity transcending the differences in religious belief and political view and accomplishing the cause of national reunification with concerted efforts, stresses the statement issued Saturday by the Korean Religionists Association in support of the 10-point programme.

The statement says:

All the religionists in the North, South and overseas should unite closely as one under the banner of the great national unity, oppose the imperialist reactionary forces and their followers who are trying to impose a nuclear holocaust upon our nation and make active efforts to jointly pave the way out for the nation.

The Korean religionists association will make an active contribution to the achievement of the great unity of the whole nation, transcending the differences in ideology and idea, political view and religious belief for the reunification and prosperity of the nation, upholding the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Urging the South Korean authorities to show an affirmative response to the 10-point programme at an early date, we express the hope that all the religionists at home and abroad will energetically turn out on the road of implementing the programme for removing the dark clouds of nuclear war hanging low over the head of the nation and bringing earlier the reunification in the 1990s in firm unity with the entire fellow countrymen.

KCNA Reviews 28 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK2804064193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—Papers here today inform the readers that immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-song have been reported and published in booklet in different countries.

Papers carry messages of greetings to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from foreign party and state leaders on his 81st birthday.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is a message of greetings to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], from general secretary of the C.C., the All-Union Bolshevik Communist Party Nina Andreyeva on the occasion of the 61st founding anniversary of the KPA.

According to the daily, Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to several units, working people and families who had set examples in displaying the traditional traits of army-people unity.

The paper prints a message of greetings of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea to Yacob Zayadine upon his reelection as general secretary of the C.C., Jordanese Communist Party.

The press reports that His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, left Pyongyang.

NODONG SINMUN dedicates an article to the 30th anniversary of the publication of the historical work of President Kim Il-song "On Improving Education in Universities."

The paper runs an editorial calling for deeply cherishing faith in socialism and an article headlined "To Have Superior Ideology Is Important Demand in Modelling Whole Society on One Idea."

MINJU CHOSON comes out with an article headlined "Party's Leadership Is Lifeline of People's Power."

The farmers of the Haksan Co-op Farm in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang municipality, vowed to finish the transplanting of rice and humus-cake maize seedlings in good time qualitatively and challenged the agricultural working people of the farms and branch farms of the country to a socialist emulation, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries an account of the 25th plenary meeting of the C.C., the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, which discussed the questions of strengthening the organizational and ideological work of the federation.

The paper publishes a joint statement of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Party of Revolution of Benin.

Papers carry an answer of a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman to a reporter's question, in which he denounced the U.S. CIA director for slandering the DPRK in his recent remarks on international terrorism.

The press reports that the U.S. imperialist aggressors staged a combined air war exercise and the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils was formally inaugurated as the successor to the National Council of Student Representatives of South Korea.

Papers hit out at the war game codenamed "Hwarang" started by the South Korean military quarters against the North.

Papers carry a statement of the Korean Religionists Association supporting the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation and home and foreign response to the programme.

Under the cross-page title "no threat and blackmail can frighten Korean people" NODONG SINMUN conveys words of the world public and Koreans overseas supporting the DPRK Government statement on its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

An article of the paper demands that the arbitrary practice of the United States must not be allowed in the international arena.

South Korea

Reaction to DPRK NPT Withdrawal Continues

Official Reveals 'Contents' of UN Draft

SK2804102093 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 28 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official on 28 April said that the five standing committee member states of the UN Security Council will hold an unofficial meeting on 28 April (New York local time) to discuss the issue of adopting a resolution calling for North Korea's nuclear inspection.

This official revealed that four standing committee members of five, excluding China, have already agreed on the contents of the draft resolution. They conveyed this draft to the Chinese side. He added that China's first reaction to the draft, which is expected to appear during the upcoming meeting, will attract people's attention.

The draft resolution, which was prepared by four standing committee member states including the United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia, calls on North Korea to return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and to accept special inspection [tukbyol sachal] of two unregistered sites as demanded by IAEA.

The contents of the draft resolution also includes a statement that the UN Security Council will deal with this issue as its impending problem until North Korea completely complies with such demand. Thus, the resolution clarified it contents as an international issue.

This official added he understands that China has had sufficient consultations with North Korea over the result of the ROK-China foreign ministers talks held in Bangkok on 21 April and over the security council's draft resolution. He noted that China may not agree with the passage of the draft resolution but will not exercise a veto.

He said that China clearly showed its position to accept U.S.-North Korea contact and North-South contact on the condition that China tacitly approves the passage of the security council's draft resolution. This being the case, China must have had fully explained to the North Korean side on the reason why it cannot exercise a veto.

This official noted that if an agreement is reached among the security council's standing committee members, an unofficial meeting will be held on around 30 April participated in by all council members, and the draft resolution on North Korea will be put forward early next week as an official agenda item of the security council.

Premier: Seoul Ready To Improve Ties

SK2804040193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0304 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 28 (YONHAP)—Seoul is prepared to thrust forward in inter-Korean relations, including economic cooperation, when North Korea acts sincerely to solve its nuclear problem, Prime Minister Hwang In-song said Wednesday.

The government would be ready with a five-year new economic plan by the end of June and it would center on system and awareness reform, he told an extraordinary session of the National Assembly.

He indicated the "real name system" of financial transactions was not likely anytime soon, saying that it would be introduced but in a "cautious" way to minimize the negative side effects.

The prime minister echoed government determination to eradicate corruption, leaving no room for sanctuary.

"The government apologizes to the people" for its inadequate handling of accidents and social corruption, he told lawmakers.

Hwang, addressing the assembly's first sitting since President Kim Yong-sam took office in February, said national reunification was the new government's most important task.

"We will realize a nuclear-free Korean peninsula through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) special inspection and ultimately the inter-Korean simultaneous inspection," he said.

"If North Korea comes forward sincerely to solve the nuclear problem, we are ready to progress with inter-Korean relations, including economic cooperation," Hwang said.

On domestic matters, the prime minister promised that the government would provide systematic and administrative safeguards to make the reforms successful.

Reform applied to the military, too, he said, calling for bold changes to remove all unfair elements.

A new education reform committee would be formed directly under the president to normalize the corruption-tainted academic circle, he said, "we will execute groundwork revisions,"

Education should not aim at having students pass college entrance exams, high school graduates should be able to find jobs easily, and universities should be in charge of setting their own entry quotas, he said.

Assembly Speaker: DPRK Exchanges Sought

SK2804055893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0546 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 28 (YONHAP)—The South Korean National Assembly is to seek exchanges and contacts with the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea, new Speaker Yi Man-sop said on Wednesday.

"We will push for exchanges with the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly to help dialogue between South and North Korea, which is now in a stalemate," Yi said.

He asked National Unification Minister Han Wan-sang, who had visited him for consultation, for the government to cooperate with the parliament on the exchanges.

"We will positively support exchanges between the legislatures of South and North Korea," Han replied.

Unification Minister Views Nuclear Issue

SK2804100093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0945 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 28 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister and National Unification Minister Han Wan-sang said on Wednesday resumption of the inter-Korean dialogue should be carefully studied depending on progress in the international efforts to resolve North Korea's nuclear question.

Speaking at a working luncheon held for the representatives of the 32 organizations related to the unification issue, Deputy Premier Han said now is a stage where dialogue is forthcoming between an international organization and North Korea and between the United States and North Korea.

Han said it is true that the possibility of dialogue between South and North Korea has been much restricted due to the internationalization of the North's nuclear question.

"Still, there is no change in the principle that any improvement of inter-Korean relations should be achieved through dialogue between the direct parties, South and North Korea," he said.

Even if South-North dialogue were reopened at the present stage, no significant progress can be expected over the nuclear issue, said han, adding "the government's position is to wait and see how the upcoming talks between Pyongyang and an international organization or the United States would come out."

AMCHAM Asks U.S. Not To Label Seoul as PFC

SK2804064593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 28 (YONHAP)—With the U.S. Government set to announce the results of its examinations of how foreign countries protect intellectual property rights on Friday, the U.S. business community has asked Washington not to name South Korea a priority foreign country [PFC] under the "Super 301" provisions of the omnibus trade law to enhance future negotiations on intellectual property rights protection.

William Oberlin, vice chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in Korea, said on Wednesday that he had filed the request with the U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] late last month, when he visited Washington.

AMCHAM had told the USTR it would be better for the improvement of Korea-U.S. trade relations to settle bilateral trade issues through friendly dialogue, rather than designating Korea a PFC, because measures to protect intellectual property rights were bringing positive results, Oberlin said.

Earlier this year, AMCHAM recommended that Washington resist imposing high anti-dumping charges on Korean semiconductors as it would harm not only trade relations between the two countries but also U.S. industry.

USAF F-16 Fighter Plane Crashes; No Casualties

SK2804091293 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] A F-16 fighter plane on training has crashed following the ROK F-16 crash incident on 8 April. At around 0555 GMT today, a U.S. Air Force [USAF] F-16 fighter plane piloted by Captain (Chuser), which was on training in the sky above (Satan-ri), (Yanggap-myon), Hwasong county, Kyonggi province, crashed into a rice field owned by Song Tong-ku, age 49.

The plane exploded on impact, however, Captain (Chuser) escaped just before the crash. No civilians were injured because the crash point was far from civilian houses.

The military authority collected the remains of the plane and is investigating the cause of the crash with the help of Hwansong county and the police.

At around 1130 GMT on 8 April, an ROK Air Force F-16 fighter plane that was on night training crashed on a hill in Hwaam-ri, Tongyang-myon, Chungwon County, North Chungchong Province. Captain Chong Chae-nam, the 31-year-old pilot, was killed.

Crash Detailed

SK2804100993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0941 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Hwasong, April 28 (YONHAP)—A U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter based in Japan crashed near here in Kyonggi Province on Wednesday afternoon.

The pilot, identified only as Capt. Ruber (phonetic), ejected and parachuted down safely. He was taken by Korean policemen to the U.S. Air Force Osan base.

The jet fighter that belonged to the U.S. 432nd Fighter Group based on the Misawa Air Base in Aomori prefecture of Japan was participating in the '93 close air support exercise when it crashed into a mountain near Sachang-ri, Yangkam-myon, Hwasong-kun, Kyonggi Province around 2:30 P.M.

The plane was engulfed in fire on crash. About 160 square meters of timberland was burnt down in an ensuing fire that was brought under control in about 20 minutes.

On April 8 a Korean Air Force F-16 crashed near Chungwon-kun killing the pilot. The Air Force blamed the pilot's fault for the crash.

Ministry Statement 'Welcomes' Yeltsin's 'Victory'

SK2804002593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea applauded Russian President Boris Yeltsin's referendum victory Tuesday with hope for continued social and economic reform.

"The government of the Republic of Korea Government [as received] welcomes that Russian people reconfirmed their confidence in President Boris Yeltsin and their support for his social and economic reform policies in the referendum held on April 25, 1993," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Seoul hoped the Russian people would stay with their choice of reforms and succeed in building a nation that "pursues universal values of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, and enjoys prosperity," the statement said.

"As a neighbor of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea will continue to support the Russian people's endeavors for reforms," it said.

Businessmen To Meet Russian Counterparts in Vladivostok

SK2804084793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0733 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 28 (YONHAP)—A delegation left Seoul to attend the second meeting of business leaders from South Korea and the Russian Far East on Wednesday.

Kohap group chairman Chang Chi-hyok is leading the 70-member delegation to the meeting Thursday and Friday in Vladivostok to discuss Russian foreign economic policy and help for the joint Korea-Russia industrial complex in Nakhodka.

Delegates will also discuss setting up information centers in both countries and Korean participation in the privatization of Russian industry.

UK Minister Calls for Lower Trade Barriers

SK2804012093 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 28 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] Korean businesses will have to make best use of Britain's geographical and economic advantages to successfully advance into the European Community market, a high-ranking British official said yesterday.

British Minister of Trade and Industry Richard Needham told a news conference in Seoul that his country wants to lure a lot more investment from Korean businesses seeking to take a greater market share in the EC.

Currently, a Korean trade mission, made up of manufacturers of electronic goods, is visiting Britain to seek joint ventures with British counterparts at the invitation of the British Trade and Industry Department.

The Minister stressed, however, that Korea should open its domestic market wider to British products to correct the trade imbalance, now in favor of Korea.

Korea's merchandise exports to Britain totaled $1,829 million last year, up 3.5 percent from 1991, while its imports amounted to $1,355 million.

When he met officials of many British and other European businesses operating in Seoul, they complained of a lot of difficulties arising from Korea's tight import regulations, Needham said.

"The European businesses officials' complaints focused on Korea's capricious changes of import tariffs," he said.

Needham said that he visited many top Korean officials responsible for economic policies and asked them to relax import barriers on European goods and services.

Some of them, including vice minister of economic planning, promised him to do their best to rectify the trade imbalance through lowering import tariffs, Needham said.

"Particularly, when I met Chong Se-yong, chairman of Hyundai Business Group, I am happy to hear that he believes Korea should further open its market to gain advanced technologies from Britain," he said.

The minister, who today winds up his five-day visit to Seoul, also discussed with O Myong, chairman of the Taejon International Exposition Organizing Committee, Britain's participation in the exposition.

Britain plans to exhibit materials showing how "great" British inventors and discoverers took the lead in developing science and technology, in its pavilion during the exposition, Needham said.

His country also will show its willingness to protect the Earth's environment at its pavilion adding that any industrial development should be in harmony with environmental protection, Needham said.

British Columbia Premier To Visit 29 Apr-1 May

SK2804004293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Apr 93 p 8

[From the "Economic Bulletin" column]

[Text] Premier Mike Harcourt of the Province of British Columbia [B.C.], Canada, will make his first visit to Korea since he became premier from tomorrow to Saturday.

The premier will be accompanied by business, government, and university officials, the Canadian Embassy said yesterday.

The Korea-B.C. relationship continues to grow in importance, making Korea B.C.'s third largest trading partner after the U.S. and Japan.

B.C.'s major exports to Korea include coal and wood products while Korea's major exports to B.C. include machinery and motor parts.

In this visit Harcourt will aim to strengthen and diversify this trading relationship as well as promote joint ventures in high technology.

As Canada's Pacific province, B.C. also is emerging as a major hub of burgeoning trade with Korea and other Asian countries.

"An important part of this mission is to reinforce B.C.'s position as the gateway to North America," Harcourt said. Harcourt and executives of the Port of Vancouver Corporation will meet with senior Korean government and business leaders to promote further cooperation in sea and air transportation.

Telecom Businesses Seek To Expand PRC Ties

SK2804101093 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 28 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] It is being viewed that cooperation in the telecommunications field between the ROK and China, such as the conclusion of a basic agreement in exchange and cooperation in the telecommunications field between the two countries, will take concrete shape in the near future.

In this connection it seems that domestic businesses in the telecommunications field will actively advance into China.

Pak Yong-il, deliberator in charge of telecommunications policy of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Posts, visited China in February. Discussions were held with Chinese authorities concerned on advancing domestic telecommunications equipment including exchangers to China. In early June, Minister of Telecommunications and Posts Yun Tong-yun plans to visit China to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart so that a basic agreement in exchange and cooperation in the telecommunications field can be concluded between the two countries.

Through the conclusion of the basic agreement with China, the Ministry of Telecommunications and Posts plans to promote the exchange of technology as well as regular human exchange between the two countries.

Since China is emerging as a vast telecommunications market, the Ministry of Telecommunications and Posts is planning to strengthen cooperative relations with China so that domestic telecommunications equipment businesses can advance into China. Through Minister Yun's upcoming visit to China, it is expected that formal approval can be obtained by the Chinese Government on selling ROK exchangers.

In China, each local government can purchase telecommunications equipment such as exchangers from businesses that received formal approval from the central government. Concrete discussions on China's formal approval of the ROK's exchangers were carried out when Mr. Pak Yong-il visited China in February. In addition, an official from the Ministry of Telecommunications and Posts will participate in the first ROK-China working-level trade talks slated for 28 April continuing for three days in Beijing, and plans to reiterate the ROK's position regarding this matter.

The Chinese Government has given formal approval to four countries—Japan's NEC, the French company (Alkatel), Germany's (Gimens), and AT&T—to sell their exchangers in China. It seems that among the domestic businesses, Samsung Electronics will receive formal approval from the Chinese Government to sell time division exchangers (TDX).

China plans to install exchangers with seven to eight million circuits annually. It plans to install exchangers with 100 million circuits by the year 2000.

Companies Discover High-Grade Oil in Algeria

SK2704101293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0808 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—Two South Korean companies announced Tuesday [27 April] the discovery of up to 100 million barrels of high quality oil in southeastern Algeria.

After five months of drilling in the Isaouane block, near Libya, Samsung Co. and Kyongin Energy Co. struck oil in the Illizi basins of Tifernine and Ti-n-Mesnaguene.

The rights are 55-percent owned by the state-run Spanish oil company Repsol, 20 percent by Samsung, 10 percent by Kyongin, and 15 percent by the Dutch Oranj-Nassau Co.

It is 41-degree oil, a better quality than 34-degree Arabian light, the companies' spokesmen said.

Samsung and Kyongin would be ready to start pumping in late 1994, they said, after appraisals and feasibility studies this year. They will take 30 percent of the oil.

More oil deposits are thought to be in the area, so the Korean companies will drill in two other likely spots, they said. The prospecting rights are valid from November 1991 to 2008, with two extensions of five years allowed.

Defense Contractors Fear Probe of Military

SK2804084493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0455 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 28 (YONHAP)—Defense contractors fear they are next in line as an investigation of military corruption targets the "Yulgok Project," a program to modernize South Korea's combat capability that began in 1974, sources said Wednesday.

This is the first ever probe of the Yulgok project, which will eat up 2.9 trillion won (3.6 billion U.S. dollars) of taxpayer money this year, and it is expected to quickly extend to the companies that are part of the Korean fighter program and the modernization of tanks, helicopters and submarines.

The Board of Audit and Inspection has said it will focus on a controversy over the choice of the F-16 as Korea's next-generation fighter and on purchases of expensive military equipment, but the defense industry will inevitably be implicated if the investigation is extended to selection and management of defense contractors and the progress of localization plans is examined.

Lawmakers have already questioned the choice of the Daewoo group to build destroyers and submarines.

There were talks of favoritism in the business circle over the selection of Korean Air for home-growing 81 UH-60 helicopters at a cost of 680 billion won, the sources said.

Many raised their eyebrows when Samsung Electronics Co. was able to go on manufacturing sights for K-1 tanks despite problems during production, they said.

Companies line up for big defense projects because the government pays the facility funds and payment is reliable as it comes from state budget.

Because they were highly confidential military projects, there were no talk afterward, the sources said. They, however, added that suspicion over irregularities was widespread in view of the fierce lobbying by large manufacturers.

The next-generation helicopter project caused heavy vying among foreign companies, Samsung Airspace Industry Co., KAL, and Daewoo Heavy Industry Co.

The disclosure of wrongdoings connected to the Yulgok project is likely to have a devastating effect on the industry, already shaken up during the probe into construction corruption.

Giant business groups such as Daewoo, Samsung and Hyundai, which run the defense industry, are said to be paying keen attention to the progress of the ongoing BAI investigation while preparing countermeasures.

While brushing aside the issue, saying the defense irregularities were between high-ranking government and military officials, businessmen cannot hide their grim faces, the sources said.

A Daewoo executive denied any favoritism involved in selection of the Korea Destroyer Program (KDX) contractors, but expressed anxiety over a possibility of such suspicion being developing into a criticism against defense industries involved.

Air Force Chief Denies Wrongdoing in Plane Switch

SK2804094193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0842 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 28 (YONHAP)—Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Yi Yang-ho, denying corruption charges, defended the government's 1991 change of mind over Korea's next-generation fighter as a result of financial realities Wednesday.

"However, there was no wrongdoing concerning the shift," Yi said, rejecting allegations of kickbacks and bribes at the highest level.

The Defense Ministry was forced to shift from the F-18 Hornet of McDonnell Douglas to the cheaper F-16 Fighting Falcon of General Dynamics by price hikes and budgetary constraints, Yi told a news conference.

The ministry called the session to explain its position on controversy over the "Yulgok Project," a program to modernize the nation's combat capability that began in 1974 and included selection of the F-16 as Korea's next-generation fighter.

Also present were Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae, Vice Minister Yi Su-hyu, and Air Force officers.

"It was inevitable for the government to review the selection because McDonnell Douglas demanded 6.28 billion U.S. dollars, up 24 percent from the original estimate of 5.05 billion dollars for 120 F-18s, in the course of negotiations with the company after Korea chose the plane in December 1989," Yi said.

"If the government had accepted the price hike, it would have suffered a budget deficit of 1.37 trillion won (1.74 billion dollars).

"Accordingly, a review committee composed of specialists from the Defense Ministry, the joint chiefs of staff and the Air Force finally chose the F-16 after five months of overhaul from November 1990," Yi said.

Stressing that the change was appropriate for the national interest, the Air Force chief reiterated his claim that there was not a single "irregularity."

Observers noted, however, that the explanation came after the Board of Audit and Inspection began to probe the Yulgok Project and Yi had said nothing new, just repeated the explanation the government made in March 1991 when it announced the change.

Gen. Yi's explanation fell short of dispelling suspicion, they said.

Army Bans Private Organizations Within Service

SK2604120093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1135 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—The Army on Monday ordered all army officers not to form or join any private organizations in the army.

Gen. Kim Tong-chin, army chief of staff, said in his "command message No. 1" that fraternal organizations based on hometown, alumni and service connections should be of the nature permissible under common senses.

"No organization that involves exclusiveness, confidentiality or collective selfishness can be tolerated," Kim said.

The command message was distributed to all battalion commanders and higher officers.

He said that no genuine unity can be ensured in an atmosphere in which those who neglect their basic duties but cater to the feelings of influential officers enjoy gains while those who faithfully indulge in one's duties alone are deserted.

"From now on we should foster, through fair personnel management, a work environment in which those who do their best in the accomplishment of their duties can be properly rewarded," Gen. Kim said.

NSP Plans Rebirth as 'World Class' Intelligence Group

SK2804093693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0826 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 28 (YONHAP)—The Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), fresh from extensive restructuring and a personnel shakeup, has launched a reform program to be born again as a world class intelligence agency.

The NSP had started moral education classes for its staff and would shortly conduct a one-year course in foreign languages and business information gathering and analysis, sources said Wednesday.

It was working on short- and long-term development plans and would soon form a personnel committee to ensure fair job assignments and promotions, they said.

To achieve harmony and unity within the spy agency, the sources said, the two cafeterias for senior and junior staff were recently integrated.

During the latter half of the year, the NSP will see a shakeup of personnel assigned overseas.

FKI Chairman: Economic Policy Helping U.S. Trade

SK2804012993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0052 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] New York, April 27 [date as received] (YONHAP)—Choe Chong-hyon, chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries [FKI], praised the government's economic policy as "appropriate and timely" in a speech Tuesday to the Korea Society.

The FKI leader criticized previous governments for having employed "erroneous" retrenchment policy to curb inflation, which was caused by pay hikes. He said, "what the industry now needs most is abundant loans at low interest rates."

The current government's policy of financial liberalization, easing regulations and supporting small- and medium-sized firms would help ease trade disputes between Seoul and Washington, and boost U.S. investment in Korea, he predicted.

Choe said that, in his capacity as chairman of the Federation of Korean Industry, he would do his best to ensure the success of the government's plan for a new economy.

Investment Promotion Pact To Be Signed With Hanoi

SK2804103493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0948 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 28 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Vietnam will conclude an agreement on investment promotion and protection when Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visits Seoul next month, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

The two nations agreed on the contents of the 12-point agreement which gives each other most-favored-nation status and guarantees remittances to the home country, officials said.

Kiet is expected in Seoul from May 13 and to sign the pact during his stay.

Seoul and Hanoi reestablished diplomatic relations last December after a severance in 1975 when Vietnam turned communist. South Korea is Vietnam's sixth largest investor in areas including oil divelopment and hotel construction.

Investments tally at 43 million U.S. dollars so far.

Cambodia

UNTAC To Cut Polling Stations by 400

OW2804040393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0305 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 28 KYODO—The United Nations will install 1,401 polling stations in Cambodia for the May 23-28 general elections, some 400 fewer than initially planned, military sources of U.N. peacekeeping units said Wednesday.

Under the revised plan, the U.N. Transitional authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) will give up plans to set up polling stations in areas controlled by the Khmer Rouge, which has declared its opposition to the elections.

UNTAC originally planned to install 1,843 polling stations across the war-torn nation, but decided to stay away from Khmer Rouge-controlled areas for fear of possible attacks from the guerrilla group, the sources said.

It also plans to send election officials by helicopter to 123 places in various areas to set up special mobile polling stations, if the situation in the country permits it, the sources said.

UNTAC is having its cease-fire monitors serve as election observers in the wake of a pullout by some U.N. volunteers because of recent attacks on U.N. peacekeepers and volunteers, the sources said.

The resigned volunteers include some who had been working in Kompong Thom in central Cambodia, where Japanese U.N. volunteer Atsuhito Nakata, 25, was shot and killed.

U.N. cease-fire monitors are reportedly working as election observers in Kompong Thom and Siem Reap in northwestern Cambodia, which the Khmer Rouge controls.

An UNTAC official said voter turnout in the general election could be less than 60 percent because of the cutback in polling stations, compared with a 70 percent turnout anticipated earlier.

UN Spokesman: KR Did Not Murder Japanese Worker

BK2804073593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0723 GMT 28 Apr 93

[By Robert Birsel]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 28 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas were not responsible for the murder earlier this month of a Japanese U.N. volunteer and his Cambodian interpreter, the United Nations said Wednesday.

While the identity and the motive of the killer had not yet been established, the most likely motive was revenge from someone who had been rejected for employment with the world body, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

"Our investigators were satisfied that the attack was not carried out by NADK elements," Falt said.

NADK—the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea—is the official name of the Khmer Rouge.

U.N. electoral official Atsuhito Nakata and his interpreter were travelling in a remote area of Kompong Thom province when the attack occured on the morning of April 8.

The two were travelling to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) headquarters in the provincial capital for a special meeting about their security.

Nakata, 25, was shot and killed at the scene while his interpreter died of his injuries later in a U.N. hospital.

Initial suspicions fell on the radical Khmer Rouge despite official denials from the group.

The Khmer Rouge are boycotting late May elections and have refused to rule out violence in an attempt to disrupt polling.

Falt said Wednesday the evidence, including that given by a single, unidentified witness, suggested there was only one gunman involved in the attack.

"The NADK is not (?known) or has not been observed operating on their own," he said.

"Also based on the knowledge of previous NADK attacks on UNTAC staff this assassination does not bear the mark of an NADK attack," he said.

The Cambodian interpreter, Lay Sok Peap, though mortally wounded, had managed to radio for help during the attack and had said they had been shot by the Khmer Rouge.

Falt said Wednesday the interpreter could have been confused by the uniform in an area where it was "normal" practice for soldiers to wear the uniform of another faction.

Investigators had rejected the possibility of robbery as a motive for the murders as nothing was stolen from the two or their vehicle, including 2,192 U.S. dollars which Nakata was carrying.

"The most likely motive for the attack was an act of revenge against UNTAC personnel as a result of recruitment of polling officers for the election," he said.

Nakata and other district electoral supervisors had been recruiting Cambodian electoral workers since mid-March.

According to Falt, some of the Cmbodians who applied to work for the United Nations were in fact Phnom Penh government soldiers and local police, which is forbidden under the rules for the polls.

The attitude of the local people towards the United Nations., previously very friendly, had apparently soured after some of them were rejected for employment as electoral workers, Falt said.

Some of the rejected applicants had expressed anger at UNTAC and several of them had threatened Nakata and his colleagues, he said.

"Employment with UNTAC would have been a great financial help for those selected while those not selected might have conceived a strong resentment for not having been chosen.

The killing of Nakata and his interpreter intensified concerns about the safety of U.N. election workers.

Thirty of the more than 400 U.N. volunteers in Cambodia are resigning because of fears about their safety, Falt said earlier this week.

The United Nations was continuing its investigation into the killings, Falt said.

UNTAC Urged To Act Against FUNCINPEC Recruiting

BK2804043493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Commission for the Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations [CCMAUN] recently sent a letter to Major General John Sanderson, commander of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces. The letter read:

First of all, please allow us to express our admiration and deep gratitude to you, general, and your colleagues for the efforts to seek peace for the Cambodian people.

The most regrettable thing of which we would like to inform you is that following the signing of the agreement, we have noticed that a political party suspected to be a branch of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independence, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party by the name of the Free Movement of Neutral Khmers [words indistinct] has been busily launching activities to create an army, which is illegal and runs counter to the agreement.

As we informed you earlier about its illegal troop recruitment in Kompong (?Chhnang) Province, this party has instructed its members to report [words indistinct] documents as attached.

We regard such active troop recruitment as a source and root cause [words indistinct].

Therefore, we propose that you take stern measures to check this activity. Otherwise, we will resort to a number of necessary actions against it.

Please accept our best regards.

Counterfeit Cash Circulates as Polls Approach

BK2704062793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0417 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 27 (AFP)—Hundreds of thousands of dollars of counterfeit money has flooded Cambodia since the launch of the election campaign earlier this month, a Phnom Penh government official said Tuesday.

Phnom Penh authorities estimate several million fake Thai baht are currently in circulation in western and northern Cambodia.

The reason for the influx is either to buy votes in the May 23-25 polls or to create an economic crisis in the run-up to voting, government spokesman Khieu Kanharit said.

"In the countryside they can use them, the people don't know," he said.

Five people from three different political parties have been arrested in northwestern Cambodia in possession of the fake money, he said, but refused to identify the parties those arrrested belonged to.

Most of the fake cash was 100 baht (four dollar) notes, but an estimated 20,000 U.S. dollars worth of fake 100 dollar bills was also in circulation, he said.

The fake Thai baht was appearing in three provinces in the west and north, while the fake dollars were believed to have been smuggled in by air or sea, he said.

Phnom Penh authorities were appealing to both the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and Thailand to improve inspections at checkpoints along the Thai-Cambodian border to stem the flood, he said.

The Phnom Penh government spokesman said authorities had received reports that 1,000,000 baht (40,000 dollars) in fake notes could be bought for 50,000 genuine baht (2,000 dollars).

Authorities were also investigating reports that the counterfeiters had set up their operation somewhere inside Cambodia to avoid arrest by Thai police, Khieu Kanharit said.

Opposition Members Said Caught With Bills

BK2804025193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Apr 93 p A4

[Text] The Phnom Penh government yesterday said members of three opposition parties had been caught with counterfeit Thai Bt [baht] 100 notes, according to its spokesman Khieu Kanharit.

Khieu refused to name the parties but said the fake bills seized from them had a face value of over Bt300 million.

In the weekly briefing, he accused a Thai company of printing the fake money for use in Cambodia for

Bt50,000 per Bt1 million face value of the printed notes. "Apparently the printing machine was brought into Cambodia," Khieu said.

The fake bills could be easily spotted when compared to the real ones he said. Shown at the briefing, their colour was pale red and the quality of paper used was quite poor.

The spokesman said the Thai money was being circulated in three Northeastern provinces—Siem Reap, Battambang and Bantheay Meancheay.

He said seven people from three different political parties had been caught carrying bags containing the fake Thai notes.

The three provinces have strong trade ties with Thailand and are known to be former strongholds of former coalition resistance guerrillas which included the Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party of Prince Norodom Rannaridh, the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party of former Prime Minister Son Sann and the Liberal Democratic Party of Gen Sak Sutsakarn, who split from Son Sann's group.

The use of Thai currency among border traders is common in Battambang and Bantheay Meancheay.

Khieu said more information would be needed before Phnom Penh lodged a complaint with chief of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) Yasushi Akashi.

He said at this stage the Cambodian Peoples Party (CPP) would only inform the Untac office. The Thai embassy has already been informed.

Contacted by THE NATION, a Thai embassy source said the embassy had been informed of the incidents and would investigate since it was a matter of concern for Thailand. The Thai police, the source said, were active in suppressing the faked Thai banknotes circulated along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The purpose of circulating the fake bills, Khieu said, was not clear, but it could be related to either vote-buying or to efforts to create economic instability in the run-up to the election.

While admitting that fake notes of different values had been detected since last year, he said the recent large influx of fake Thai baht noticed by Cambodian banks occurred just after the election campaign started on April 7.

The counterfeit currency problem also includes an influx of fake US bills, he said. "It is very difficult to determine the source of these bills since they come from different places outside the country."

Observers here said Phnom Penh's accusation was aimed at discrediting the Funcinpec party, whose increased popularity during the campaign worried the CPP.

The mudslinging between rival parties and charges of political intimidation intensified as the election campaign entered its third week. Elections are set for May 23-2 .

Funcinpec leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh's plan to hire a private helicopter to take him to Kampong Cham for his party's rally on Monday was thwarted by Phnom Penh, according to Prince Norodom Siriwuth, a Funcinpec candidate for the most hotly contested province in the 1 20-seat Constituent Assembly. "This private company said Phnom Penh had instructed it not to fly Prince Ranariddh to Kampong Chan," he said.

He said the refusal was a violation of electoral regulations and human rights. Untac chief Akashi had been informed but failed to override Phnom Penh's order, he said.

According to Siriwuth, Ranariddh's entourage nevertheless managed to get to Kampong Cham province aboard an Untac helicopter which coincidentally also carried Untac's electoral chief, Reginald Austin.

"It was not an easy choice for Untac, since it could be accused of non-neutrality by offering its facility for a political party's use but there was no other choice," said Siriwith.

Paper Evaluates Sihanouk's Postelection Role

BK2504042093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 93 p A10

[By the "Regional Desk"]

[Text] As the Cambodian people prepare for their first free election from May 23-27, many uncertainties still remain. Is the election going to be held as planned? Who will lead the country? Which political party will win the election? How can the warshattered country be saved?

Despite the growing violence and killings ahead of the election, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), which organized the poll is determined to press ahead with the plan. Any delay could have disastrous impacts on Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge, which has decided to stay away from the peace process has been held responsible for the increased slayings of Untac persormel. Up to now, nine officials and volunteers had been killed. Murders and political intimidation so far have been restricted not only to the Marxist group but have been carried out by government security personnel as well.

The worsening security situation has already scared off some UN volunteers who have been risking their lives in remote areas of Cambodia. To provide better security in the provinces, especially areas controlled by the Khmer Rouge such as Kampong Thom or Siem Riep, increased armed UN escorts would be indispensable. Bullet-proof jackets could be distributed to UN personnel just as their colleagues have them in Bosnia.

Without the May election and a new legitimate government, Cambodia could plunge into renewed civil war as

Cambodian factions, principally the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh troops, would fight to gain control of the country and its population of 8.8 million.

The Khmer Rouge, which was pushed out of power by Vietnam, has vowed to fight back. The communist guerrillas have faulted the Untac on the grounds that it has failed to verify the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. Moreover, the Khmer Rouge demands that the Supreme National Council (SNC) should be empowered to administrate Cambodia.

Now the Khmer Rouge has pulled out from Phnom Penh and is at present using a headquarters near the Thai border as a spring board for their public relations campaigns.

Be that as it may, the Untac has kept the door open to accommodate the Khmer Rouge hoping that it would join the election even though it failed to disarm and demobilize its troops. Without the Khmer Rouge abiding by the UN peace framework, peace in Cambodia will not be durable because of its looming threat.

Its leaders have made clear that they would disrupt the election and would not accept the results of the poll. Of major concern is their still intact fighting forces. Apparently, the Marxist group's main strategy is to remind the people of its presence and disturb with terrorism any future attempt to reconstruct Cambodia.

The Untac is aware of the situation, which helps explain why it is resolved to continue with the election. For the world body in general, this peacekeeping operation in Cambodia is a test case in the post-Cold War period for whether UN collective action and commitment by the international community is be able to produce peace and stability in the country, which has been wrecked by almost three decades of internecine fighting.

The peacekeeping operation in Cambodia is an unprecedented undertaking as it is the most expensive operation of its kind, costing US$2 billion. The expense could climb to US$3 billion by the end of August.

More importantly, the UN cannot afford to postpone the election for obvious reasons. The UN has successfully completed the planned repatriation of 375,000 Cambodian refugees living along the Thai-Cambodian border and the voter registration of 4.6 million people—95 per cent of the eligible voters.

In addition, the cost of peacekeeping put up by Western countries is limited and they are not willing to provide financial assistance for any delay in the peace process. For one thing, their attention is now focused on crises in other parts of the world, such as in Africa and in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Any delay in implementing of the final phase of the UN peace framework would play into the hands of the Khmer Rouge, which has always wanted to derail the peace plan.

Against this backdrop, it is hoped that the scheduled election, despite the violence, will produce a new Cambodian government comprising several parties. Out of 20 parties contending for the 120-seat assembly, only a handful are expected to win a sizeable number of votes.

Phnom Penh's Cambodian Peoples Party (CPP) is pitched against the Funcinpec (the French acronym of the National United Front for Independent, Free and Neutral Cambodia) headed by Prince Sihanouk's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, for a dominant position.

Other small parties, such as former prime minister Son Sann's Liberal Democrats, or his former aide Gen Sak Suthsakarn's Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, hope to gain from frustrated voters who are not satisfied with the larger parties.

The political campaigning which started in early April has not yet reached full steam. So far, the CPP has been able to attract big crowds while other parties are watching before mapping out their strategies. Untac chief Yasushi Akashi has lambasted the Phnom Penh government for refusing to allow TV time for other parties. The Untac has also criticised Phnom Penh for continued political intimidation.

Given the present situation, it is not too premature to say that no party is likely win an absolute majority in this electoral contest.

For the CPP to win the majority would prove a disaster as it would legitimize the Vietnamese occupation. In a similar vein, an upset victory by Funcipec could turn the country upside down.

One of the likely scenarios is that the CPP and Funcinpec will form the core group which, with the participation of smaller parties, would set up a new government responsible for drafting a constitution within the three months before the scheduled Aug 31 withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping forces from Cambodia.

One of the new government's immediate tasks will be to define the scope of the role which Prince Sihanouk will play in a Cambodia of the future. Sihanouk has not been modest when it comes to his expected responsibilities. The prince has said he would like to become president with full authority, like the French president. He thinks this would be the only way to reconcile all conflicting parties and rebuild the war-weary nation.

As a former monarch, Sihanouk would like also to see his status restored and some royal practices again observed in Cambodia. Whatever role he assumes, Sihanouk will still be the only person capable of uniting all Cambodian factions and lead the country. Other leaders do not have Sihanouk's charisma and most of all, they do not encompass Cambodian nationalism as symbolized by Sihanouk.

Even through a legitimate electoral process, the Phnom Penh leaders could not lay claim to representing Cambodian patriotism as they were installed by the Vietnamese troops who invaded Cambodia on Christmas Eve, 1978. If his party wins, Prime Minister Hun Sen would still need to work with Sihanouk to reconstruct a new Cambodia that is democratic, independent and neutral. Funcinpec could provide much-need technocrats and economists to run a market- oriented economy as the party comprises mainly former officials from the Lon Nol government that, ruled Cambodia in the early 1970s.

The Phnom Penh government, for good or for worse, has been managing Cambodia for the last 14 years with little, if any, assistance from the West. Any new government, to succeed in administrating the country, would need the expertise and personnel who used to work for the Phnom Penh government.

Their absence could handicap the country's development schemes. Phnom Penh's cooperation with the Untac has made its peace operations possible, even though Phnom Penh's cooperation had sometimes turned into confrontation.

In the final analysis, the post-May Cambodia will need Sihanouk. But whether Sihanouk will succeed in his future role will very much depend on his intention and style. Sihanouk has now returned to Cambodia after months in China and North Korea. Since then he has repeatedly reminded the Cambodian people that they are facing the arduous task of reconstructing and rehabilitating their nation. He has also called for national reconciliation and unity among all Cambodian factions.

To succeed, Sihanouk needs to provide strong leadership for Cambodia, otherwise the country could drift into more uncertainties. The prince, being mercurial, could fill that role if he is empowered to administer the country. Being Sihanouk, he wants to make sure that nobody is above him or can force him to do things he disagrees with.

Strong leadership is needed to mend the country's divisions caused by decades of intemal war. In addition Sihanouk's reputation and good standing would attract foreign aid to help rebuild Cambodia. The international community pledged in Tokyo last year to provide US$880 million, of which a token amount has been delivered to Cambodia in the past year.

The international community, especially members of the United Nations Security Council, has also lent strong support for Sihanouk and views the prince as the only leader who can lead the war-shattered nation.

Thai leaders believe that Sihanouk is a key player in settling the differences among the Cambodian factions and bringing about the much-needed national reconciliation. In the past weeks, Thai military leaders have said Sihanouk must have more authority in order to manage Cambodia—even though they realized that the more power Sihanouk gets the more dangerous it could be for Thailand because of the history of hostility between the two neighbours.

Sihanouk's role in the Cambodian scheme of things is unique. The prince was forced to live in political exile for the past 20 years, now he has one more chance to do Cambodia good as he is poised to come back to save his country from a future civil war and restore peace.

Hun Sen Addresses Kampot City People 20 Apr

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[Speech by Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and chairman of the State of Cambodia Council of Ministers, at a meeting to inaugurate a multipurpose hall at Preah Reach Samphea High School in Kampot City, Kampot Province on 20 April—recorded]

[Text] My respects to all venerable Buddhist monks, grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, brothers, (?sisters), and all compatriots taking part in the inauguration of the multipurpose hall and attending this grand meeting.

I am very happy to be back in Kampot Province (?for the second time). [passage indistinct] (?My last trip) was to inspect the situation related to the production drive and the process to arrange a neutral political atmosphere and (?conditions for the elections).

Today, I am very happy to be able to join in the official inauguration of new achievements. In two days, that is yesterday in Angkor Chey District, I took part in the inauguration of a school building. Today, I am again taking part in the inauguration of school buildings. Therefore, while we are inaugurating and putting the achievements we made to use, some political parties are just roaming about and promising that they will do this and that. As for us, we go around inaugurating and putting our achievements into use. Thus, it is quite different.

I am even more happy that there are so many people, many compatriots, getting together here today. As the provincial governor told me just now, there are over 60,000 persons. [words indistinct] can be called a great meeting among all the meetings I attended in several places.

I am very proud and happy that grandfathers, grandmothers, and compatriots have given your love and trust to me in my capacity as a leader of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC]. Grandfathers and grandmothers said when we met just now that they love and sympathize with us and that they will not forsake us. Since we used to help them, they will now give us help in return. They will vote for us. I am very happy with this kind of promise. It is this love and trust that has encouraged me and other leaders to be even more determined to move on so as to bring our country out of another danger of the genocidal regime and toward prosperity, as we have done since the time we had nothing up to now.

Availing myself of the just concluded new year, the year of the rooster, 2537 of the Buddhist Era, I would like to convey to all venerable monks and compatriots best wishes from the CPP and the SOC Government. May the new year bring new successes and all the best and shower upon you longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment. [applause]

Venerable monks, beloved compatriots: Kampot Province is one of the 20 provinces and cities throughout the country liberated on 7 January 1979. Kampot, however, is also a province that has successively suffered due to the fact that the terrain here consists of mountain ranges, which has enabled the Pol Pot clique who has been hiding there to keep launching sabotage activities into such areas as Dang Tong, Chum kiri, Chhuk, Kompong Trach, and Tuk Meas Districts. Concerning this matter, I would like to inform venerable monks and compatriots that the party and government have always taken part in bearing the difficulties and have been anxious to prevent the recurrence of the Khmer Rouge's genocidal and destructive acts.

Despite many problems and destructive acts by the Khmer Rouge, who are hiding in the vicinity, Kampot remains a province that has known a rapid pace. Starting from scratch, it has rebuilt a new life after the liberation day of 7 January 1979. New installations, new homes, facilities, and other means have emerged. Thus, we get together here today in a joyous atmosphere permeated with profound optimism.

Also on this occasion, I would like to express thanks to workers and farmers producing salt, whom I will not fail to mention. This is because Kampot is the only salt-producer province in Cambodia. Moreover, workers in the state-owned salt farms and salters have made great contributions to providing salt nationwide. Now a production and distribution system has been set up [words indistinct] become a production to promote the supply of salt nationwide. I would like to appeal [passage indistinct] the only salt supplier nationwide, I would therefore like to take this opportunity to appeal to salt-producer compatriots to continue their efforts so as to produce more salt for the market with a reasonable price acceptable to consumers throughout the country.

I would like to inform you that salt is a product that is indispensable, like rice. Thus, if Kampot Province cannot produce enough salt to serve the needs, it will create a problem for the government. I therefore believe that through this new production system, our salt-producer compatriots will make efforts to produce enough to serve the needs throughout the country with a reasonable price for consumers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and praise workers at the cement factory. Although the factory has not yet gone into production, work has proceeded well with investment and many Chinese technicians there. I believe that our cement factory workers are also present here. So, if we can produce cement right here in Kampot Province, it will certainly provide favorable conditions to the entire country because our construction needs are enormous. At present we are importing cement; if we can push for the production of cement, this would reduce the use of timber and promote the construction of people's houses, public buildings, and monasteries. The cost would also be reasonable and affordable.

I would also like to praise workers at the phosphate fertilizer factory for their efforts to defend the installation; the factory has not yet gone into production. We will move into production to serve farmers' needs in the near future. Kampot is therefore a province that, along with being endowed with various productions like other provinces, also has special features: first, salt; second, cement; and third, fertilizers.

It is my understanding that the provincial party and people's committee will strive to promote Kampot's role in the three productions. Some products are almost the monopoly of the province, such as salt. No other place produces salt except Kampot Province. The same goes for cement. As for fertilizers, there are other places producing them but Kampot produces the most. Thus, I hope that Kampot Province will promote these three sectors along with efforts to promote production; agriculture; and other industrial crops such as pepper, durian, rambutan, and others; and fishing.

Beloved clergy and compatriots: After being silent for over a year during which I did not make any public addresses, I have made many speeches over the past few days—since 6 April from Vihea Suo in Khsach Kandal District, Kandal Province. I think compatriots have already listened to those addresses. I will certainly not talk about the points I have already raised. Of course, there are points for which it is necessary to talk about again. My speech today is not just for those attending today's meeting. It is also an address for meetings and for compatriots nationwide. I would like to raise a number of issues and address them in the form of a political statement of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]. These issues are points which I have not yet touched upon, or have discussed but not very clearly. I will make this speech for compatriots nationwide.

First, I would like to make observations and address compatriots, and also use this opportunity to inform the international community about the issues relating to measures to achieve success in the upcoming election. Compatriots and the international community know that the Khmer Rouge have boycotted the election. They have not only refused to participate in the election, but are also making efforts to destroy it through a declaration of war. This is a war not only with Vietnamese residents, but also with the Cambodian people, political parties taking part in the elections, and also with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

Yesterday evening [19 April], the Khmer Rouge attacked Aoral District [Kompong Speu Province], and burned and destroyed houses, buildings, and a hospital. The attack also killed a Bulgarian soldier and wounded a number of others. I would like to take this opportunity to express to compatriots the condolences of the CPP to compatriots who suffered damage; to our wounded policemen; to our victimized forces; and to our people who encountered the disaster resulting from the Khmer Rouge attack. At the same time, I would like to share condolences with the dead Bulgarian soldier and convey through UNTAC condolences to his family. I would also like to wish a speedy recovery to those wounded in the attack.

As a party which has always opposed violence, violations, and genocide, we vigorously denounce this base act of the Pol Pot genocidal group for attacking innocent people and UN peacekeeping forces. The Khmer Rouge have declared war and are waging an indiscriminate war not just against foreign residents and the Cambodian people; even UNTAC is not spared. It is therefore clear that the Khmer Rouge have no consideration for anyone. The Khmer Rouge have never forgiven anybody.

It is this situation that puts our compatriots, political parties whose policy is to oppose Pol Pot, and the international community paying attention to the election in Cambodia, into a situation in which to take most stringent measures to evacuate people and to get the Cambodian people away from the danger of genocide. This is in order to achieve success in the election because this is the key to solving the Cambodian problem. If the election cannot be held, it would be the most shameful failure of the United Nations because this is the biggest UN operation in the history of this organization involving the use of tens of thousands of people and thousands of millions of dollars to carry out the peacekeeping operation.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the clergy and compatriots at this grand meeting of ours, as well compatriots nationwide, that since November 1992 in Beijing to 5 January 1993, and later on—particularly at the meetings of the Supreme National Council [SNC] on 4 and 10 April—[passage indistinct] United Nations on 7 April, the State of Cambodia [SOC] and myself put forward a proposal to the SNC, as well as to the Security Council, to take the most necessary measures to ensure the success of the Paris agreement leading to the election.

I would like to stress that when I met with His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN Secretary General and UNTAC chief; and with diplomats of the major countries in the UN Security Council [UNSC], as well as diplomats accredited to the SNC, I have always demanded that most efficient measures be taken to end the Pol Pot group's dirty activities, which lead to the failure of the Paris agreement. I also demanded that the Pol Pot group be expelled from the SNC and that the convention on the prevention and punishment of genocidal acts be implemented by arresting Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Son Sen and putting them on trial.

Along with these requests, I have also demanded that three measures be taken to ensure the success of our election. What are these three measures?

First, military measures to thwart the Khmer Rouge violations, harassment, and destruction of the election and also the lives and property of the Cambodian people. Earlier, I asked that the mandate of UNTAC's military fores be changed from peacekeeping to preparing to create peace. It is obvious, however, that this was difficult to do. I have therefore asked UNTAC to clearly determine the task of the SOC troops. Why?

In June 1992, when the Khmer Rouge had not yet taken part in the second phase of the cease-fire, I asked UN Secretary General Special Representative Yasushi Akashi about what we should do faced with the situation in which the Khmer Rouge refused to disarm and to canton troops—in other words, refused to enter the second phase of the cease-fire. What are we expected to do? At that time, Yasushi Akashi clearly specified three points at the meeting: first, the current military balance will be maintained; second, the parties implementing the agreement will not be allowed to become victims; third, allow the parties implementing the agreement to exercise the right to self-defense.

Based on such permission, the SOC has persistently implemented the agreement. On the one hand, it has cantoned its forces unilaterally and demobilized part of its forces; on the other, [words indistinct] consideration to the Cambodian people's lives and property, we have maintained some forces to protect the people. In December 1992, the Khmer Rouge launched fierce attacks against Route 10 in Battambang Province and Bavel District of Battambang Province. Tens of thousands of people were forced to stay close to Battambang provincial town. Such a situation compelled the SOC forces to exercise the right to self-defense.

It, however, was regrettable that when the SOC exercised the right to self-defense to protect the people and the areas where the election is to be held, some people loudly shouted that the SOC violated the cease-fire like the Khmer Rouge. On Route 12, from Kompong Thom Province to Preah Vihear, the Khmer Rouge cut this road, making it difficult for us to contact Preah Vihear and Kompong Thom Provinces. In such a situation we had to liberate Route 12 to get supplies through to people in Preah Vihear Province. Again it was said that the SOC was preparing forces to attack the Khmer Rouge.

That is why I have demanded that UNTAC be clear about this: If the Khmer Rouge attack people, the election areas, and UNTAC, what is the SOC expected to do? If we fight back against the Khmer Rouge, we are accused of also violating the cease-fire. If we retreat, the people will be killed and robbed and elections cannot be held in those areas. Thus, I have demanded that Akashi and the UN secretary general be clear about this: If the Khmer Rouge attack, what should I do? If I retreat, people will be killed and people's property dstroyed; and

UNTAC itself will have to flee those areas. The number of people taking part in the election will be reduced and the election areas will get smaller. This calls for UNTAC to pronounce clearly on the issue.

We have forces to fight the Khmer Rouge; however, the problem is this: If we dispatch forces to attack the Khmer Rouge to protect the people, we are accused of also violating the cease-fire. So, after raising this issue with UNTAC for a long time and receiving no reply, now I publicly make this statement calling on UNTAC to provide an answer correctly and sufficiently about what we should do. We have forces at our disposal. The Khmer Rouge attacked us; if we fight back, we are also accused of committing violations. If we retreat, the people will die. If the Khmer Rouge destroy the people, elections cannot be held. When the Khmer Rouge are in control, even UNTAC cannot stay. Now I ask that UNTAC and the UNSC clearly specify the role and duty of the SOC armed forces.

A number of political parties, particularly allies of the Khmer Rouge—there is no need for me to mention their names again—dared not denounce the Khmer Rouge when the latter attacked the people; these people even laughed. And when we attacked the Khmer Rouge to protect the people, these parties say that we violated the cease-fire agreement. So, what to do? You are not the one protecting the people; the SOC is doing this. The SOC, however, is in a difficult position as far as the military attitude is concerned. Fighting back to protect the people means violating the cease-fire like others. Retreating, people will die and be robbed by the Khmer Rouge; UNTAC will flee; and elections cannot be held. So what to do now?

When I go back to Phnom Penh, I will write to ask Akashi again. I should be answered. If I fight back, you said I am wrong; if I do not fight, you will flee. What should I do? [words indistinct] This is the first point concerning measures in the military sector.

The second point. I have proposed that UNTAC pay attention to security [words indistinct]. Why? A few months back, the Khmer Rouge's friends carried out terrorist activities. I would like to reveal this. The Khmer Rouge have infiltrated a lot of forces into the country through the labels of various parties. Weapons and bombs have been brought into cities and townships. The SOC was not able to take any preventive measures because these forces are under this or that party; most of them are in FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. These people went around exploding bombs and then put the blame on us. Now we have proof.

Compatriots have heard the interviews of General (Kan Rat), a commander of FUNCINPEC troops. He has joined our party and revealed the tricks and secrets of the FUNCINPEC party and army. The day before yesterday and yesterday, another general, (Su Kimsun), FUNCINPEC commander in Phnom Penh and also FUNCINPEC election candidate, left FUNCINPEC to join the CPP. He revealed the secrets [words indistinct]. There are many more generals; I will reveal them to you later. FUNCINPEC exploded bombs and put the blame on the SOC. Even if 100 stars are conferred on each general, it cannot be done; we cannot provide protection.

An event took place in a village in Kompong Chhnang Province; I have just received a message from Phnom Penh this morning. There was a bomb explosion in a FUNCINPEC office in a village in Kompong Chhnang Province. UNTAC and the SOC police investigated the incident and agreed in their conclusion that it was an explosion created by FUNCINPEC in order to put the blame on the SOC. How? First, the bomb exploded only 1.2 m from a sleeping mother and her child; however, the two persons were not wounded. Second, following the explosion, those in the office did not seem to be in a panic. Third, there was a 1-meter-deep hole in the ground with footprints in it. This meant that the person left the bomb to explode and rushed into the hole to hide. FUNCINPEC did this itself. This is the investigation of UNTAC and our police.

So, what am I [change of thought], what is the existing authority expected to do to ensure security? On the one hand, the Khmer Rouge infiltrated into various parties to carry out destructive activities; and on the other, parties created incidents to put the blame on us. For this reason, UNTAC recently cooperated with us to carry out some tasks with us, for which I would like to thank UNTAC. First, UNTAC cooperated with the SOC police to protect various political parties' offices. It, however, is possible to provide protection only in provincial and district towns. Some parties have opened offices in villages. The office is just a simple hut. Even Akashi said that some parties have more offices than the CPP. The CPP has 3 million members but does not have that many offices like some parties, who have opened so many offices. So, it is easy; just lob a grenade into that hut and put the blame on the SOC claiming the it was done by the SOC or that the SOC cannot provide protection.

We have therefore cooperated with UNTAC to protect various parties' offices. A number of our district governors have voiced this concern: In the past, explosions tended to happen from inside. I said: This is those people's business, when explosions happen inside; we cannot guard the husband and wife sleeping inside. We only guard the outside to prevent gunfire and grenades from being thrown. If you kill each other inside your office, it is your business. Furthermore, we have cooperated with UNTAC and confiscated many illegal weapons. Regardless of the parties they belong to, even our own party members who illegally carry weapons, these persons will have their weapons confiscated.

In the past many parties have brought weapons into the country. We face great difficulties if they commit robbery and murder. I have written to Akashi to investigate FUNCINPEC because we have evidence. Akashi had sent a message thanking me. So far, however, UNTAC has not sent officials to meet a few generals who are ready to provide evidence. I launch this open appeal to UNTAC to dispatch officials and investigators. For example, the murders in Battambang and in Sisophon, which were blamed on the SOC. Now it is shown that it was not the SOC that committed them, but the other side. Now we have evidence; we have generals and even the persons committing the acts. there is, however, no sign of UNTAC officials yet.

UNTAC had issued an arrest warrant for a policeman in Tuk Meas; there was only one eyewitness. On the side of the arrested person, however, dozens of witnesses testified that the person was somewhere else at the time of the incident. Now UNTAC [as heard] has more witnesses than this, including generals, field-grade officers, and even the persons committing the acts. Why are no arrest warrants issued for the other side? I am waiting to see. There should be justice; this should not be taken lightly.

Be that as it may, we have to cooperate to prevent terrorist acts in order to create a neutral atmosphere and calm to serve the election. This is the second point I proposed.

The third point. Measures should be taken to improve the economic situation and prevent economic sabotage by various political parties and the Khmer... [changes thought] a number of parties, allies of the Khmer Rouge. Economic matter is the most important. Military situation or security can be restored. For instance, after a bomb explosion, stability will return tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. If the economy crumbles, however, everything else will be in confusion. Therefore, I have proposed that UNTAC and the international community pay attention to economic stability. On this matter, I am grateful to UNTAC for not being indifferent to the socio-economic situation.

Thus these three measures are for overcoming difficulties so that we can achieve the election because this election determines success or failure of the Paris agreement. It is very important for our nation. This is the first time in history that we have a multiparty election. This is the point I would like to inform compatriots. This election is important; we have to hold it at all costs and democratically hold it.

Over the past few days, a number of parties, which failed to attract a lot of people, have turned to threatening our people to vote for them. They have also been intimidating people saying that this or that personality has already joined their parties. They have been going around doing this. I urge compatriots not to be frightened by anyone, be they the Khmer Rouge or other political parties, because noboby knows how we vote. We vote in accordance with our decision. We should be courageous and vote for the party we like.

It is seen that whenever the CPP holds a rally, tens of thousand of people attend while only 20 or 30 people, 17 or seven persons attend other parties' rallies. Now these parties have avoided big meetings. They have turned to visiting houses. Arriving at one house they say: The entire village has joined us; only your family is left. And at the next house they said: This house, that house, and that one have joined us. They did this, did they not? There is no need to go around lying to people. Grandmothers have said: We will help you in return, you used to help us. As grandmothers in Prey Veng have said: Earlier, the angel helped us; now we help the angel back so that the angel can help us again. This is because our party's emblem is the angel. I am grateful for this. Before, the party helped compatriots; now the party need compatriots' help through your votes for the party, that is the party of the angel. And if this party lost, that would be another story.

Beloved clergy and compatriots: I have talked a lot about the situation, the CPP'a guarantees, the internal policy, economic issues, and other sectors. I would like to take this opportunity to inform the clergy and compatriots on issues relating to foreign policy. Compatriots are aware of the CPP's guarantees concerning issues relating to internal policy and many sectors, particularly the economic sector. This question is now asked: What about foreign policy, territory integrity, and foreign nationals? How should these issue be resolved?

I want to take this opportunity to inform the clergy and compatriots on the issues relating to territorial integrity and foreign policy of the CPP, and also the issue of foreign nationals living in Cambodia. These are also hot and important issues that compatriots want to know and hear about. This is because if national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are lost, it is difficult for us to live, not just for compatriots, but for me too. We have to live (?and develop) within the framework of independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

A number of people perhaps thought that we are useless and have not thought about borders, territorial integrity, and independence. They have set themsleves up as top, best, and old-hand patritots. I, however, would like to inform the clergy and compatriots about the CPP's foreign policy.

The CPP implements a foreign policy of independence, equality, friendship, permanent neutrality, and nonalignment. This party maintains relations with all countries regardless of political regime [words indistinct], and in particular with neighboring countries. [?On this occasion] the Cambodian nation and people, because of destruction by war and an international atmosphere, which has just come out of the cold war, economic relations and issues relating to economy have become important factors in political relations. Therefore, in order to restore Cambodia after a war lasting over more than (?13 years) and after the genocidal regime, Cambodia needs aid from all countries and from all international organizations [words indistinct].

Our country's border issue. Do not forget that our country has borders adjoining three countries: Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. The border with Laos comprises land and water borders through the Mekong River.

There is no problem as far as our border with Laos is concerned. The contentious point is the border issue, which has successively been raised since the time before the war in the seventies up to this day, namely the Cambodian-Vietnamese border and Cambodian-Thai border.

Now, the tripartite side has raised only the Cambodian-Vietnamese border issue; however, the SOC side has raised the issue of all borders, not just with Vietnam, but with Thailand as well; the border with Laos may also be examined. Why does the (?other side) not raise the border issue with Thailand? They call themselves patriots but are also people who are afraid. They dare not raise this border issue with Thailand for fear of being pinned down to the ground by Thailand. At SNC meetings, His Excellency Khieu Samphan, Khieu Samphan, and Son Sann only raised the Cambodian-Vietnamese border issue. But I proposed that all issues be raised. In the end, Akashi and Prince Norodom Sihanouk agreed with my view. I said that Cambodia (?does) not share border with only Vietnam; Cambodia shares the border with three countries. Therefore, these borders should all be examined because it is the time to do so.

Now let me talk about the land border between Cambodia and Thailand and between Cambodia and Vietnam and how the issue has been solved and is being solved. The land border between Cambodia and Thailand has not yet been examined. It is true that this border [words indistinct] of 1907, the Franco-Thai agreement. Furthermore, this will be based on the ruling of the court in The Hague concerning the Preah Vihear case—it was decided that Preah Vihear belongs to Cambodia. Therefore, there is no question about raising the issue whether Preah Vihear belong to Thailand or Cambodia. No, this is not the issue to raise. It has to be said that Preah Vihear belongs to Cambodia. So, the issue of the [words indistinct] Cambodian-Thai border has not yet been discussed. The issue, however, basically rests on the agreement made by France in 1907 and the Hague court's ruling on Preah Vihear.

Concerning the border with Vietnam, I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that there have been many problems surrounding the Cambodian-Vietnamese border. Compatriots should understand historic circumstances. Prior to 1970, Vietnam was divided into two: North Vietnam, called the Democratic Republic of Vietnam [DRV]; and South Vietnam, called the Republic of Vietnam [RVN]. The RVN, that is South Vietnam, did not recognize Cambodia's current border. For this reason, there was no relations between Saigon and the government of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk. As for North Vietnam and the front for the liberation of southern Vietnam, they recognized Cambodia's current border. What was the situation of Cambodia's current border then?

I would like to inform you that on the basis of recognition of Cambodia's border by the DRV, that is North Vietnam, and by the front for the liberation of south Vietnam, or the Vietcong, there were diplomatic relations between North Vietnam and the government of the prince, and between the front of South Vietnam and the prince's government [words indistinct]. The basis of Vietnam's recognition was the 1:100,000 maps published by the Geographic Department of Indochina in 1954. This is a legal basis.

I would like to inform you that the land and water border... [changes thought] Because of the refusal by South Vietnam, that is the RVN of Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky, to recognize Cambodia's current border, South Vietnam sent troops to attack Lon Nol forces and seized Kaoh Wai Island. People in Kampot Province knew about this. At that time, a French oil company was exploring Wai Island. The Lon Nol administration could not do anything then. When South Vietnam sent troops to attack and seize Wai island, North Vietnam denounced South Vietnam for committing aggression against and annexing Cambodia's island. There are official documents on the denunciation by the front for the liberation of southern Vietnam and North Vietnam of the Saigon administration's annexation of Kaoh Wai Island by force [passage indistinct].

After liberation in January 1979, what has the SOC Government done about the Cambodian-Vietnamese land and maritime border issue? I would like to inform you that I have discussed this with Vietnam because we were in a situation in which we control power in the country and we cannot let our country have no land and maritime borders. Thus, we have signed an agreement with Vietnam using the 1:100,000 maps published by France's Geographic Department of Indochina because they were the maps recognized before 1970. I [words indistinct] although they were published by the Geographic Department of Indochina in 1954, these maps were copied from the maps published in 1921, 1929, 1931, 1939, 41, and later. I was the one conducting negotiations.

We have been scolded, however, for over 13 years for ceding territory to Vietnam. [words indistinct] have also recognized that the 1:100,000 maps, published by the Geographic Department of Indochina, should be used. Those who [words indistinct indistinct] nationalists; I am also a nationalist [words indistinct] Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of southern Vietnam] is not my business. I was born in 1952; I was too young, I was not aware of anything. I, however, have defended what is left [passage indistinct].

I would like to inform the clergy: The SOC Government has not only paid attention to the border issue; it has also considered the (?environment) along the border and trade relations between the two people [words indistinct]. It is not just the border between Vietnam and Cambodia, but also the Cambodian-Thai border. [words indistinct]

In the Cambodian-Vietnamese agreement, we discussed the issue relating to water flow. Do not forget that along the border, things are taken seriously. The two countries should [words indistinct]. For example, Vietnam plans to dig a canal inside Vietnamese territory, but the water flow is connected. So, if you dig a canal on your side, it could damage land on our side; the place could be changed from one with water to one without; one that used to have sufficient water to one with too much water [words indistinct].

Let me cite an example. (?Thailand) wants to build a hydropower station [words indistinct]. We refused; we objected to this [words indistinct] hundreds of kilometers in Thai territory; but we objected. Vietnam and Laos objected. A dam was to be built across the Mekong River; this river flows down from China, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. The water was for irrigating millions of hectares of land in Thailand. We, in the lower part of the Mekong, from Stung Treng, would be deprived of water [words indistinct]. Say, the river is 10 meters deep; if the dam was built, the water would be only 4 meters deep; we would no longer have fish; we would not be able to travel by motorboats. So, [words indistinct]. Thus, other nationalists, please understand, [words indistinct] even the environment. You are not the only nationalists; (?are others not) Cambodians too?

[Words indistinct] but the Mekong river is linked to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Vietnam wants to build a bridge across the river at Banmethuot. In fact Vietnam has the right to build the bridge across the river. However, international law requires that Vietnam does not act this way. We have proposed to Vietnam not to build that bridge. Why? Because large ships cannot travel to Phnom Penh. If you are going to build this bridge, do it in such a way that it can be opened to allow ships to pass through; otherwise you have to build the bridge very high to enable ships to go through to Phnom Penh.

You nationalists should know that we do not think only as far as the Vietnamese border. We do think about sea traffic as well. Do not just say that we have ceded dozens of kilometers, 30 km, 60 km of our border to Vietnam. As if they have no eyes. It is too bad for persons with good eyesight to act this way. They have not come to see it for themselves. So, gentlemen, come see it for yourselves. Come now while UNTAC is still there. UNTAC also [passage indistinct]. If it were 30 kilometers, what else do we lose?.... Kompong Trach, Tuk Meas, [passage indistinct]. Only because we dig a ditch in Takeo to get water for [words indistinct], Ranariddh said in Paris that we (?dig new border line). [passage indistinct].

Now, let us talk about trade relations between people along the border. Let me tell you that in all generations, people along the borders trade with each other. The Cambodians and Lao used to cross over back and forth. The Vietnamese also used to cross over the border back and forth.

Now, let me cite the case of Koh Kong. We will speak about the Thai first. We speak about a new story, so that we will not be blamed for speaking only about Vietnam, referring only to Vietnam. Let us speak about a new story.

Prior to (?1986), our compatriots said that we must seal the Koh Kong border to prevent the people from trading with Thailand. I then went down to Koh Kong. Upon my arrival, I said it was impossible to close it. If we close it, we would be taking a false step [words indistinct] Why? It is because our people in Koh Kong have been relying on trade with Thailand. (?Traders have to sell their goods in) Khlong Yai, Thailand. They have to go to buy rice from Khlong Yai, Thailand, for consumption. They have to go buy materials, [words indistinct], and fuel from Khlong Yai. As for our country, it takes 24 hours, one day and one night, to (?travel) from Sre Ambel or Kompong Som. In such a case, even though you want to close it down with the use of (?tens of thousands of) policemen to seal it off, it still is impossible. Then what is the best thing to do? The best thing is to keep it open. But we must carry out patrols. If we open it, we check [words indistinct]. That is also one way of border checking. People go anywhere that is more convenient. They will not come to buy rice in Sre Ambel or Kompong Som. They prefer to buy it in their neighborhood. They prefer to buy it from a nearby area. Therefore, such is an ordinary trade relation. There are many other points along the Cambodian-Thai border. It is an ordinary practice. It did not begin in our generation. It has taken place since the old generations. The people have carried out their trading that way. [passage indistinct]

Similar contact has also been practiced along the Cambodian-Vietnamese and Cambodian-Lao borders. [passage indistinct] The Vietnamese have also bought goods from Cambodia. That is called market requirement, market demand. It is also the same with Laos. We Cambodians need [words indistinct] from Laos. Is that not so? As for Laos, she wants silk sarongs from Cambodia, salt from Cambodia [words indistinct]. That is called the market, things needed from one another [passage indistinct]. We have imported quite a large quantity of rice to Thailand. Thailand has given us a higher price. If we close down [words indistinct]. That is the problem of trade relations along border areas. Now we should find ways to intervene to avoid anarchy. Border problems are quite difficult (?to settle).

Therefore, all gentlemen in various political parties (?knowing) that Vietnam has moved the border, do come, come to see it and [words indistinct]. They are also nationalists. Whatever you have seen in Kampuchea Kraom [passage indistinct]. Go there if you want to, but I will not. That is what I want to stress. I do not care even if you will say that I am not a nationalist. [passage indistinct] Why did you not try to do it before? Why must you wait until now to say that if you win the election, you will get back Kampuchea Kraom? Go and get it by yourself. Mr. Son Sann's party [words indistinct]. If it has a way, do say what it is. Say it clearly during your election campaign, what is your plan to get Kampuchea Kraom back. [passage indistinct]

Now, I would like to speak about the problem of islands, the problem of islands. Laos and Cambodia do not have this problem. [passage indistinct] Vietnam claims these islands belongs to Vietnam; China says it is China's; Indonesia says it belongs to Indonesia; Philippines says this is the Philippines' island. [Words indistinct] countries claim that it is their islands. Many more countries are contesting this claim in the same way. How about us?

Now, I would like to talk about relations with Thailand. How are we and Thailand getting along? We have a problem concerning Kut islands. The Thai are there. But according to the Franco-Siamese agreement [passage indistinct]. That is another matter for later negotiation.

I would like to speak about the sovereignty over Wai and Tang islands. Vietnam, as I just said, [change of thought]. In 1975, there were two Vietnams—North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

South Vietnam said that Wai and Tang islands were Vietnamese islands while North Vietnam said that Wai and Tang islands were Cambodian islands. It was quite fortunate that North Vietnam could reunify with South Vietnam. It was fortunate because Wai and Tang islands remain under Vietnam because South Vietnam (?attacked and seized control over them). [passage indistinct] They scolded Hun Sen; and then praised the policy of the former Republic of Vietnam also known as South Vietnam. When South Vietnam attacked and seized Wai islands, taking over Tang and Wai islands, North Vietnam [words indistinct]. Later on during negotiations, Vietnam did not say that those (islands) belong to them. As for [words indistinct]. Wai is a Cambodian island, Wai island is Cambodian. (?After the negotiations), we have deployed our forces on those islands.

Now, any gentlemen, any political parties which are still in doubt are invited to go to Wai island. The SOC has prepared planes and helicopters or ships for sending you there. Do go to take a look and examine it together with our forces. Do not just say anything you do not know. Now that [words indistinct]. It is better for you to go and see it for yourself. Stop clamoring. Anyone in doubt should come to us so that we can go there together. We can go there by ship or plane. You are invited to go there. The CPP and SOC will pay for your trip. Pay for your plane. If you want to go by ship, we will provide sleeping berths for you as well. Do not just talk nonsense.

But then... [changes thought] now, let us talk only about Wai island. We need not say it is Cambodian or Vietnamese. It is a Cambodian island. What is in the area between Wai and Tau Chau islands, Tral islands? There is a problem. There is a problem in the point that if we take over the areas stretching out from Wai island, according to the territorial waters law, we will be encroaching, hitting Vietnam's territory. If we stretch out 100 km, that is use Wai islands as the start of measurement, we will be hitting Tral island, hitting Tau Chau islands. If Vietnam uses Tau Chau islands as a measure to stretch back, its (territorial waters) will not be just as far as Wai island, but will extend further down to Kampot and Kompong Som. Due to such (?an unsettled problem), in 1992 I asked the Vietnamese side to let us set aside this area for the time being as a historic waters zone, that is an unsettled zone. [passage indistinct] What will happen if Vietnam, holding that Tral and Tau Chau islands belong to her, stretches out as far as 100 km in our direction; will it not be extending up to Kompong Som? And we, holding that Wai, Tral, and Tang are our islands, also stretch out 100 km away [words indistinct].

Thailand's case is likewise. If Thailand says Kut is her island; we say that it is ours; or maybe, Thailand says [passage indistinct] In that case, let us set it aside for the time being. This kind of a settlement is also practiced by Malaysia, China, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia, and countries which are in dispute over the Spratlys and Paracels.

We (?have not ceded it to) Vietnam. No, we have not. It is an unsettled zone. We will settle this problem later. The government to be elected will settle it. But we support the settlement of this problem through peaceful means and oppose the use of force to settle it. We will not use force of arms to settle disputes or seize (islands) from Thailand or Vietnam. But, we also oppose Vietnam or Thailand using force of arms to settle or seize territory from us. (?It must be settled through) negotiations.

Therefore, I would like to inform all of you, the nationalists, that the SOC has the principle to settle [words indistinct]. And we, as I have said, have thought not only about the border question, but the question of environment as well. Take the Tonle Chrap river as an example. Tonle Chrap has been [words indistinct]. Therefore, we told Vietnam that while nothing has been done, Tonle Chrap is regarded as the border. [passage indistinct] That is one problem that I would like to emphasize. Now, there is another problem, the problem of the immigrants, the residents. The problem of the immigrants, the residents. I would like to inform all venerable monks and compatriots that the problem of the Vietnamese immigrants, Chinese immigrants in Cambodia is not a new problem, but a historic problem. It is a historic problem. The problem of Chinese immigrants in Cambodia is not a new problem. It is a historic problem. The Chinese in our country are (?Kampot) Chinese or called black Chinese.

But I would like also to (?tell you a story). In Cambodia, my wife is said to be a Chinese. When we went to the United States and France, she was said to be a Yuon, a Vietnamese. When we went to China, (?they) said that Hun Sen's wife is a Chinese from Hainanese origin. A Hainanese. I said it is too bad, too bad. In Cambodia, she is said to be a Chinese; when in China, they said she is a Chinese; in Japan, she is said to be a Japanese; when in France and the United States, they said that she is a Vietnamese. So, I told her: If it is that complicated, you had better die so that I can find a new one. [laughter] Sorry, [words indistinct].

I would like to stress that the Chinese have been in Cambodia for centuries, for a very long time, very long time. And the Vietnamese have also been in Cambodia for centuries, for a very long time. Particularly when Vietnam (?was in difficulty)—according to history, during the time the French (?came to grow rubber trees) in Cambodia, they brought the Vietnamese from Hue. That is why we Cambodians like to call the Vietnamese "Yuon Hue". That is because there are two Vietnams [words indistinct] north Vietnam, south Vietnam, and central Vietnam.

Prior to the 1970-75 war, they [passage indistinct]. This is not a new story. It is an old story. [passage indistinct] It is not 2.5 million as the Khmer Rouge have lied. [passage indistinct] But the overwhelming majority of them are Vietnamese who were born in Cambodia. They have been here for generations. So, how to settle this problem? Now it seems there is no problem concerning the Chinese residents. There is no problem because they have been living here for a long time.

Historically and geographically, Cambodia and Vietnam are close by. Now, not only Cambodia, Vietnam, and China, but also Thailand, Thailand and Laos [which are close by]. However I am not talking about the ethnic Thai in Koh Kong, ethnic Lao in Ratanakiri and Stung Treng. I talk about the newcomers. They are also in the category of foreign residents.

I would like to tell you that the CPP, [words indistinct], will issue an immigration law. This immigration law will deal with the problem of foreign residents, what is the right of foreign residents and how they should set up their residence [words indistinct]. This is to be decided by the new government. The next government will settle this problem.

It is also clearly stated in the statement between His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the SRV foreign minister that the matter should be settled by the next government. It should not be settled in the way that the Pol Pot clique and its allies demanded. Settling this problem that way is similar to putting the cart before the oxen.

Now, leave it [words indistinct]. Hold the elections first, hold the elections first. After that issue a law, approve a law (?on) foreign residents [passage indistinct]. To drive out Vietnamese residents first, drive out Chinese residents first would be tantamount to putting the cart before the oxen.

[Passage indistinct] I would like to stress to the compatriots in some areas that when Vietnam... [changes thought] when the Khmer Rouge massacred Vietnamese residents in Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Thom, and Siem Reap, the Vietnamese residents deserted their houses and fled by boat (?to take refuge in areas) in Kandal Province. So, some compatriots have thought that the Vietnamese have come to seize land here and to take this and that. I must tell you that [passage indistinct]. At present, many construction sites are deserted everywhere. Vietnamese workers [passage indistinct].

I would like to take this opportunity to speak a little bit about the CPP's policy concerning the ethnic minorities. I went to many places and met fraternal Khmer Muslims and other ethnic minorities, such as Stieng, Mong, Jarai, [words indistinct] or Lao and Thai who are minorities (?in our country). In general, they highly value the CPP's policy on ethnic minorities. Contempt toward the ethnic minorities has been averted to a great extent. [passage indistinct] Khmer Muslims and other ethnic minorities have been living together in our country and enjoying equal rights [passage indistinct].

This is the success in the implementation of the party's policy on ethnic minorities. Now, I would like to inform you that while the CPP [change of thought]. The CPP's policy on ethnic minorities must continue. It is true that the Khmers are [words indistinct]. We must be equal before the law [words indistinct]. The CPP supports, encourages, and upholds religions and good customs and traditions of minorities, strives to help [passage indistinct].

The party will continue this policy. [words indistinct) the Pol Pot regime killed many fraternal Muslims. [passage indistinct] We will make further efforts. No other parties are better than the CPP, no other parties are better than the CPP. Before, they (?ethnic groups) were looked down upon; they faced difficulties [words indistinct]. The CPP will not allow any nationality to look down upon another. All are equal. And the party has helped to improve their living conditions [passage indistinct].

Now, I would like to ask: Now are you going to vote for the CPP, Heng Samrin and Chea Sim and myself? Will you, grandmother? [woman shouts "yes, yes"; applause]

Thank you very much. I am (?proud) to receive the votes from compatriots in Kampot as well as from elsewhere throughout the country. [words indistinct] I pledge, I swear that I will not flee, I will not [words indistinct]. We will be here; Heng Samrin, Chea Sim will be here. [passage indistinct] As a matter of fact, we have been together for so many years now since the time we were starving together. Now, I have a car. [words indistinct] motocycles, cars. [passage indistinct] We began to build our lives barehanded. Beginning from bare hands, we now have horsecarts, ox-carts, and bicycles. Some have motorcycles, some others even cars. How can I continue to ride in a horsecart when I am now prime minister? Is that not right? If we ride in horsecarts, they say we are poor. But if we drive cars, they say we are corrupt. If we are corrupt, it means that all Cambodians are corrupt. Because in 1979 our hands were empty; now we have tiled-roof houses. Where does the money come from? [applause] It comes from searching for it. [laughter] Is this not so? Thirteen years [changes thought] it has been 14 years, are we expetced to [words indistinct]? Let me now talk a bit about corruption. (?It is an old story).

[Words indistinct] the prince was accused of being corrupt [words indistinct]. Now the Phnom Penh regime is accused of being corrupt [words indistinct]. They said the prince opened a casino; [words indistinct] corrupt; the prince's administration was corrupt. These were the accusations [words indistinct] he was siding with the Vietcong, and pro-Vietnamese [words indistinct]. Then came the Lon Nol regime, which was said to be even more corrupt. However, there was a difference: Lon Nol was corrupt and pro-American. [words indistinct] Now it is the same story. The Hun Sen regime is corrupt and close to Vietnam. It is the same story. Whenever there is an election, corruption is the number one issue. So, if you said I am corrupt, you are also corrupt, and an old hand at that. Old hand corrupt people. [words indistinct] you were Lon Nol officials; therefore, you were also corrupt. Some were Khmer Rouge officials. The Khmer Rouge are also corrupt; some say that the Khmer Rouge are not corrupt. How come these officials were not corrupt? They gave us rice soup to eat and they confiscated our property to put in the district chief's house [words indistinct]. I do not mean that it was like this everywhere.

[Words indistinct] That is why the REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA newspaper says that a corrupt society has been created. It wrote: Attention all corrupt people: We have members in the 20 parties. Our members are in all the 20 parties. There are corrupt people in all the parties. Now they have come with these stories.

Compatriots, grandfathers, and grandmothers: These are all what they can say: one, the Hun Sen regime is incompetent; two, Vietnam's puppets; and three, corrupt. That is all; nothing else. Now ask them to talk about policies? The way I talk just now. Talk about how to solve border problems. Do not just say that Vietnam has annexed territory. [words indistinct] and if you want to take back Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of southern Vietnam], how do you do it? Talk about it. And the policy toward ethnic groups. And the policy on education. And the policy on agriculture. [words indistinct] Competent or incompetent; this does not rest on you saying so. I have started from bare hands and achieved all this. And what do the people say, what do you say compatriots? Are there results or are there not? It is not up to you to say so. If you started out rich and became poor, you are incompetent; you are wrong, like the Khmer Rouge. Those who make the poor become rich, that is right; they are competent.

Whenever they talk, they mention that they are doctors in this or that, and that they are old hands. Please yourselves; go your own way. If you want to die, go and die alone, do not take millions of others along. I am only talking about what is right. I am not the one who made people die. From the time we had nothing— grandfathers and gradmothers now can recite prayers, have beds, good lower garments; and Cambodian Muslims wearing their caps, and so on; students have cloth to wear, and so on—[words indistinct]. Just try to start a Roamvong dance [popular dance organized at various occasions] and see what [words indistinct]. [laughter] We made this happen, from nothing; now we have radio, television; simple radio sets will not do, they have to have a tape recorder too; people have wrist watches.

Do not come and boast that you are good; not everyone is rich and can travel by plane. Watch out, you may die before you can travel by plane.

It seems that I have talked for a long time already. Thus, I would like to leave people's deputies with you here; those who will be standing here. They are: Ney Pena, vice chairman of the party Central Committee's Control Commission; General Chay Sangyun, deputy defense minister, he was former provincial governor; Mrs. Som Kimsuo, she is chairman [change of thought] and people's deputy here for a long time; Khhun Chhi, who cannot come today, he is a minister and my adviser, he is also a former people's deputy here; Tit Ream, governor; and An He, deputy governor, [passage indistinct].

It is like this, grandmothers and grandmothers, just vote for the party symbol and I will be elected. If you really love Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and myself, vote for the party emblem; tick at the right place [words indistinct] cross out FUNCINPEC. [words indistinct] You have to cross at the right place; it is very important, that one ballot; just in case Hun Sen needs one extra vote. For example, 40,000 votes are needed to get a chair. A chair has four legs; 10,000 votes can get only one leg. Be careful; when the time comes, I might get only 39,999 votes; one vote short. Some grandmothers might say: I do not feel well, I am not going to vote. No, you have to vote and tick at the right place, saying to yourself that this one is for my son Hun Sen; I met him the other day and promised to vote for him. Tick at the right place. Do not let anybody cheat you. This is a secret vote; nobody can watch us tick. I am now confident that you will vote for the angel emblem, and I will be elected and come to Kampot again.

I would like to end here. Once again, I would like to thank the clergy and compatriots for providing support to me, the CPP, and the SOC Government. Despite the heat—there is some shade, but it is still hot—grandmothers, grandfathers, and all relatives have been paying attention to my talk. Once more, I would like to wish the clergy, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunties, older and younger brothers, nephews, and all compatriots, Cambodians and Muslims present here, the five Buddhist blessings: longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment.

Thank you. [applasue]

Indonesia

Trade Attache Discusses Trade With ROK

BK2704070693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0634 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 27 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia's efforts to increase its exports to South Korea are hampered by limited products which are able to compete in that country's market, Indonesian Trade Attache in Seoul Uty Mujiono said on Monday.

She said that the limitation of primary products has so far caused Indonesia's trade surplus with South Korea to fluctuate.

The value of Indonesia's exports to South Korea, which stood at U.S. $1.4 billion in 1990, increased to U.S. $2.1 billion in 1991 and U.S. $2.3 billion in 1992.

Indonesia's imports from South Korea in 1990 were about U.S. $984 million, increasing to U.S. $1.4 billion in the following year and U.S. $1.9 billion in 1993, according to the trade attache.

She said that the Indonesian exports to that country in 1992 only increased by 11.69 percent due to the stiff competition and the scarcity of primary export products.

In the same period, she added, Indonesia's imports from South Korea increased by 43.40 percent.

She mentioned the inability of Indonesian exporters to maintain the amount and quality of their products as another factor hampering Indonesia's exports to South Korea.

South Korea also imposed non-tariff and tariff barriers on goods entering its market, she said.

Furniture, for example, has to pay 15 percent of luxury good tax even though an import duty has been imposed on it, she explained.

Indonesia's primary exports to South Korea include coffee, timber, leather, textile and textile products, copper, and chemical products.

Its imports from that country include chemical products, metal goods, textiles and its products, and machine tools.

Daily Discusses 'Prejudice' in North-South Relations

BK2304155693 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 8 Apr 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Curing Our Planet's Ills"]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has just returned home with a hefty wallet full of US$1.6 billion from President Bill Clinton. The U.S. has taken a major step toward rescuing the Russian leader from his difficult domestic problems. This is a praiseworthy deed. Yeltsin did not have to see a disappointing repeat of last year's experience when he got only promises from the United States. And we all hope that "the long term goal", in the words of Clinton, will be achieved.

At stake are the lives of the 150 million people of Russia and the hard-earned democracy achieved in this remnant of the communist giant and former nuclear power, the Soviet Union. We believe in democracy and pray for the welfare of the Russian people in the days to come.

In another part of the globe, a similar cause is also being fought for in the name of 108 developing countries of the South. This fight is being fought by Indonesia in its capacity as leader of the Nonaligned Movement. At stake are the lives of not just 150 million people but those of nearly half of earth's population of five-and-a-half billion people. At stake is not one democracy but more than 100.

If the nations of the West view problems in the former Soviet Union republics, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, as a time bomb, they should be reminded that a mightier bomb is ticking away in the form of suffering due to poverty in many developing countries. The myriad problems in these countries have persisted for much too long. Hundreds of millions of people go hungry every day although the world has the resources to feed them. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that the total external debt of developing countries reached US$1.35 trillion in 1991.

As a member of the international community, Indonesia has been trying to revive the North-South dialog. One of its efforts has been to have its leader address the Group of Seven (G-7) summit of developed nations in Japan in July. It is our earnest hope that President Suharto will be able to address the Tokyo summit.

If not, we cannot but resort to the assumption that prejudice on the part of the West is influencing the policy of the nations, like the United States, that could do the most to help.

To date, Suharto's chances of presenting the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] message at the Tokyo summit seem slim, giving rise to questions which clearly require serious answers. Does the reluctance of G-7 leaders to listen to the plight of developing countries originate from the fact that unlike in Russia and the other republics of the former Soviet Union no nuclear warheads are involved? Or is this reluctance motivated by the more alluring markets the former Soviet republics are expected to have in the future, once economic growth takes root there?

All Indonesia is trying to do is get a chance to talk to the leaders of the seven powerful countries about the various constraints and problems faced by the developing nations of the South. Only the initiation of a constructive dialog between the developed nations of the North and the countries of the South is expected, absolutely no money is involved.

This effort is motivated by the belief that all men live on one and the same planet and are thus responsible for the overall conditions on the globe and the situation of all of its inhabitants. In this era of globalization, interdependence is a key word in international relations.

Encouraging developments such as a decline in the world's military spending and sweeping democratic changes across the globe have marked the post Cold War era. This trend clearly calls for profound change in the attitude of some of the world's countries. A change which translates into readiness to work together and discuss the ills plaguing our planet. In light of this we wonder why it is so difficult for the South to get a chance to communicate with the North.

Laos

Public Security Forces' 1992 Achievements Reviewed

BK2604134193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Feature article by Bouaphapinkeo Meuangneua: "What achievements did the Public Security Forces win in 1992?"]

[Text] In the report on 1992 achievements presented at the nationwide conference on public security work in mid-March, the Interior Ministry noted that the world situation in 1992 continued to change furiously and complicatedly and that following the change in the situation, many major events concerning national defense and public security work, as well as maintenance of social order occurred in our country. Those events resulted from acts conducted by various hostile forces and ill-intentioned elements who have taken advantage of the situation to carry out general sabotage and subversive schemes. In particular, they positively carried out slanderous propaganda aimed at sabotaging the correct and just line of our party in accordance with their strategic schemes of peacefully effecting changes in our country.

In 1992, our public security forces won great, praiseworthy achievements in many fields. For example, they effectively carried out campaigns to maintain public security during the election of members to the Third National Assembly, and during the funeral for President Kaysone Phomvihan, our most beloved and respected leader who was the founder of the Armed Forces. Our public security forces also provided satisfactory protection for foreign guests on different occasions.

In addition, our forces effectively launched operations to suppress and dismantle those ill-intentioned elements who carried out adverse activities and violated laws and regulations of the country in various localities, in particular in border areas. Our public security forces punished and captured a considerably large number of the bad elements. Noteworthy were the suppression operations launched in Savannakhet, Khammouane, Bolikhamsai, Vientiane, Xieng Khouang, and Sayaboury Provinces. In Vientiane Municipality alone, our public security forces arrested and prosecuted international bank robbers who robbed money totaling $2 million from the Lao Foreign Trade Bank. Our public security forces successfully took back all the stolen money from the robbers. Also, they arrested and took legal action against cadres of the Lao Fuel and Oil Company and Forestry Company No. 3 on corruption and defraud charges. Our public security forces also arrested and reeducated a considerably large number of thieves, hooligans, and other bad elements who violated laws, regulations, and the fine customs and culture of our nation.

Along with this, we continued to organize cadres to turn to the grass roots to carry out infrastructure work. Fulfilling this work, we set up many people's bases and Armed Forces' units. As of now, public security forces' bases have been set up in many provinces and in Vientiane Municipality. Political campaigns were also carried out in those provinces to consolidate the organizational system of the Armed Forces' commanding apparatuses. Political campaigns were also organized within the Interior Ministry and in various public security forces' units. At the same time, we persistently continued to set up people's bases in Vientiane Municipality and in the Provinces of Vientiane, Bolikhamsai, Sayaboury, and Luang Prabang, as well as in other localities. Also noteworthy is that public security networks at the village level have been increasingly set up and strengthened throughout. Simultaneously, the policy of appraising and awarding outstanding cadres and combatants with promotions was also put into practice while forces in charge of political and ideological as well as logistical work were set up. Considerable achievements were also recorded in carrying out production work which was aimed at improving the living conditions of cadres and combatants of the public security forces.

The public security maintenance work for the past year was difficult and complicated work. But we have successfully fulfilled it. As a result, public security in the country has been effectively guaranteed. The achievements that we won in the past year resulted from solidarity and cooperation among the multiethnic people in coordination with high determination and loyalty to the party and state by our various Armed Forces. Though there were obstacles and difficulties, and sometimes the sacrifice of life was needed, our public security forces were determined to overcome those obstacles and difficulties and competed in fulfilling the tasks of maintaining public security and defending territorial land and waters. As a result, tranquillity, security, and order have been basically maintained from north to south through our country.

However, our public security forces continue to have certain shortcomings due to the limited understanding of political and legal affairs. Besides, ill-intentioned elements have taken advantage of the privatism line of thinking to carry out propaganda to disrupt the solidarity between the public security forces and other sectors. In particular, in settling various cases, cadres have continued to maintain wrong attitudes and practice inappropriate manners. On many occasions, they even violated the democratic rights of the people and laws and regulations of the state. It is, therefore, required that party committees and command staffs at all levels pay more attention to educating and training their cadres and combatants to strictly respect the rules and regulations of the Armed Forces. They should also resolutely punish those who commit faults in order to securely maintain the prestige and honor of the public security forces.

Editorial Discusses Promoting Goods Economy

BK2804062593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 22 Apr 93

[PASASON editorial: "Vigorously Promote the Goods Economy Under Various Forms of Ownership and Organization"—dated 22 April]

[Text] The targets of our country's socioeconomic development plan for the period from 1993 to 2000, on which we must concentrate all our efforts to fulfill, are to increasingly develop the national economy at an average of 8 percent per year, maintain economic and financial stability—the stability of prices and exchange rates, control inflation at a level not exceeding 10 percent per year, and encourage and promote investments in various branches to be at a level not lower than 15 percent of the gross domestic product. To successfully realize the said figures and objectives, there are many tasks that must be carried out simultaneously. One important direction that we must firmly grasp is to continually promote the goods-oriented econmy under the many forms and many levels of ownership and organization which form the structure of the goods-oriented economy. This is in order to expand the overall national strength and make use of it to increase business production under the control and supervision of the state. This means that to effectively promote the goods economy, concentration must not be made on any specific form of ownership or organization in particular. However, it is required that many different forms of ownership and organization be formed into the structure of the goods economy. In this regard, the family economy and the production of individual farmers must be vigorously promoted through the implementation of state policies in various fields in coordination with the implementation of two-sided service of various economic sectors in accordance with the form of production relations, the circulation of goods, and living conditions. This is aimed at creating favorable conditions for the turning of the natural economy into the goods economy through positive steps which also appropriately guarantee the interests of each and every sector.

The aforesaid direction has been implemented and must be continuously implemented. The direction must be also vigorously promoted in order to exploit the overall national strength and utilize it in carrying out the goods production business. The main point is to find ways to encourage all farmers and their families or individuals to serve as goods production units to carry out the business in order to gradually turn the natural economy in the vast rural areas of our country into a goods economy. It is certain that to successfully realize this direction, it is necessary for the state to adopt appropriate policies, in particular the policy in the field of finances, credits, and prices, in accordance with the form of the two-sided service, such as the demand and supply service. This issue was seen as a weak point in implementing this direction in the recent past. It was reflected in the facts that, in certain localities, the people were encouraged to produce goods but were not given any suggestions as to what type or quality of goods they should produce, where they could obtain seeds or raw materials, what the details of the policy on finances and credits were, and what the prices would be that the people could get for selling their products. The local administrations also failed to find markets for the people to sell their goods. Regarding this, in certain cases the state must agree to suffer loss to help uphold the prices of the products that are likely to fall below the production capital in order to support the production force and prevent it from coming to a standstill or becoming bankrupt. The state must assist the production force to continually develop.

Only by concretizing the aforesaid policy for each branch and guiding the implementation of it in conformity with the practical conditions in each locality, each province, and each region, can the said policy be fruitfully implemented and can various negative phenomena that might arise from the process of business production and production of goods of the multiethnic people be prevented.

Philippines

Libyan Minister To Meet Ramos 2 May

HK2804031193 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 28 Apr 93 p 12

[Report by Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] Libyan Foreign Minister [title as received] 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir will be visiting Manila on May 2 to 3 and will be carrying a letter for President Ramos, on whom he will be making a courtesy call, from Libyan strongman Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi, a senior official at the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] disclosed yesterday.

The Libyan official is expected to request Philippine "understanding" in light of a U.S.-led initiative at the United Nations to impose even more serious sanctions on Tripoli for its refusal to turn over two agents implicated in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, the official said. Of the 207 victims, two were Filipinos.

In turn, the Libyans are expected to offer the "closure of the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) office in Tripoli," he said.

While the move is seen as a response to global pressure on Tripoli to disavow its support for international terrorism, it would be an important propaganda coup for the Philippine Government—"a demonstration of waning support in the Muslim world for the MNLF secessionists," the official said.

Tripoli has been a major base of operations for the MNLF since 1972, in particular during the height of the Moro secessionist's military campaign during the '70s. However, in the late '80s, the relationship between the MNLF and the Libyan Government cooled after Tripoli tried to dispatch Tausugs training there to augment its forces in Chad.

Diplomatic sources revealed that United States Embassy officials had stated their objections to Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo when first hearing of the planned Libyan visit. Initially, it was believed that Mr Romulo had contrived to be out of the country (he is leaving for the U.S. on May 1) as a result of U.S. pressure, passing the chore instead to Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino.

Now that word will be out that Mr Ramos himself will be entertaining the Libyan official, some "ill-feeling from the U.S. Embassy can be expected," the DFA official remarked.

NDF Leader Comments on Internal Divisions

HK2804034193 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 28 Apr 93 p 12

[Report by Wilfredo G. Reyes]

[Text] National Democratic Front (NDF) vice-chairman Luis Jalandoni will remain the NDF's official representative despite the continuing conflict within the insurgent movement.

Former NDF chief negotiator Saturnino Ocampo said yesterday feuding factions within the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NDF continue to support Mr Jalandoni's role since the internal CPP/NDF rift revolved around organizational issues and did not affect insurgent objectives and policies towards Manila.

"What I gathered, so far, from the groups in the so-called opposition within the CPP and some elements of the NDF is that they will not intervene in the peace process," Mr Ocampo stressed. "They do not plan to offer an alternative group to talks with Government, so they will continue to support the chosen representative of the NDF. They also said they would respect the authority given by the highest councils of the NDF to whoever is designated to talk with the Government.

"For the moment, they are not questioning the authority of (Mr.) Jalandoni or whoever may be designated by the National Council of the NDF later on."

Mr Ocampo attempted to allay apprehensions on the part of the National Unification Commission (NUC) that the curent internal CPP/NDF rift would complicate the peace process. Specifically, NUC chairman Haydee Yorac had disclosed, for the first time, the possibility of having to deal with more than one insurgent group as a result of a schism.

"(Ms.) Yorac is speculating on that possibility or what she said she would be talking to other groups," Mrs Ocampo observed. "There is a very intriguing statement she said, that she is in touch with all groups.

"Now I don't know what groups she's talking about... two or three groups, and she said she doesn't want to exclude anyone. For instance, if she was referring to me as a representative of one of these groups, well, I have always made it clear in our meetings that I talked with her in my personal capacity, and not as a representative of the movement."

However, Mr Ocampo did not discount the possibility the internal CPP/NDF opposition could reject the authority of their designated representative. This scenario could materialize should Mr Jalandoni or any of his successors choose to ignore the decisions of the July 1990 NDF Congress, which contained the seeds of the current conflict within the movement.

Mr Ocampo recalled that Armando Liwanag, widely believed to be alleged CPP chairman Jose Ma. Sison himself, had embarked on a stringent rectification campaign within the movement to correct what he perceived were liberalizing and capitalist tendencies of the decisions made during that congress.

Mr Ocampo summarized the controversial decisions of that congress into three issues, which Armando Liwanag had particularly opposed. Specifically, these were: the adoption of the principle of democratic pluralism, as opposed to the concept of the leadership of the working class which the CPP upholds; aspirations for the development of a mixed national democratic economy, is. an amalgam of state, cooperative and private enterprises, as opposed to a command economy, and the concept of the NDF as an autonomous federation of organizations, in which the CPP exerts strong influence.

"The opposition group says the integrity of the decisions of the 1990 Congress must be upheld by the NDF negotiators," he stressed. "The context in which specific proposals in socioeconomic reforms, political settlement, must be kept within the agreements or decisions made in that congress.

"They have forewarned that their negotiators must stand by the decisions of the 1990 Congress of the NDF."

At the same time, he warned Government that the CPP/NDF would only persevere in the current peace process in order to maximize prospects of achieving established insurgent objectives.

"In the assessment of the revolutionary forces of the left, President Ramos is not really interested in reaching an accommodation with them," he remarked.

"He is using three tools to subjugate the movement; the intensification of his 'total war' policy, propaganda and the peace process. In fact, sa tingin ko nga eh, masayang-masaya siya sa nangyayari ngayon sa kilusan," [I believe that he's even very happy with what's happening in the movement] he added.

"Kayalang [However], the revolutionary forces want to see how far they can go to achieve something within the framework provided by the peace process. This is the only reason they continue to be interested in this development."

Speaker To Meet NDF Leaders in Netherlands

HK2804070593 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] House Speaker Jose De Venecia, along with two other members of Congress, will be going to Utrecht, the Netherlands to meet with Fr. Luis Jalandoni and Jose Maria Sison, leaders of the National Democratic Front [NDF]. Sources say the trip is a last-ditch attempt to salvage peace talks between the NDF and National Unification Commission [NUC], the government's representative to the talks. Sources also said House Speaker De Venecia, Tarlac Representative Jose Yap, and Ilocos Norte Representative Roque Ablan will try to convince Jalandoni and Sison to reopen discussion on the venue of the peace talks. Earlier, NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac turned down the NDF's proposal to hold the talks outside the Philippines.

Rift Between NDF Factions Said Worsening

HK2604015493 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] The criticisms of a National Democratic Front [NDF] faction in Europe against the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] leadership have reportedly worsened the discord among leaders of the NDF. At NDF-Europe's 20th anniversary celebration in Ultrecht, the Netherlands, an NDF faction known as Verdadero has expressed opposition against the alleged attempt of another NDF group headed by a certain Armando Liwanag, who identified himself with CPP founder Jose Maria Sison, to change the structure and program of the organization. The Verdadero faction also accused the latter for allegedly declaring a sort of martial law.

National Democratic Front Spokesperson Byron Bocar, in his anniversary speech, has opposed the proposal of a one-party system and has urged leaders to uphold what was agreed upon at the 1990 NDF Congress.

Ramos Approves Military Exercise With Singapore

HK2704024793 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 27 Apr 93 p 6

[Report by Frank Longid]

[Text] President Ramos has assented to the holding of joint military exercises with neighboring Singapore, the first such undertaking since the withdrawal of American troops from the Philippines last year.

In a letter sent last April 20 to Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, the President approved proposals from the defense establishments of both countries to hold joint maneuvers on a regular basis.

De Villa said the military exercises would further enhance relations between Manila and Singapore. "The joint exercises will serve to strengthen ties and lead to increased cooperation between the two countries," he added.

A ranking military official also disclosed that a team had already been sent by the defense department and the Armed Forces to Singapore to plan out the first exercise involving the army units of both countries.

Future exercises will involve naval and air force units, but specific details still have to be worked out, the official said.

The 11-man team sent to Singapore was led by Col Hercules Galon of the Philippine Army who is expected to be appointed exercise director for the first maneuver.

But the first exercise, which will involve battalion-size units, will not be held in May as earlier reported. The source said the exercise would be conducted "most likely on the 24th and 25th" of June.

If all goes well, the source said, the exercises will be held "more than once a year."

The Philippine military is also planning to send its troops to Singapore for military maneuvers which may occur within the year, the official said.

Both countries have a long tradition of close security ties. Singapore was one of the few countries which immediately supplied munitions to the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] during the outbreak of the secessionist movement in the early 1970s.

A Singaporean air force detachment was also based at Clark Air Base from 1979 to 1990, and intelligence exchanges between Manila and Singapore have taken place in the last two decades.

Military documents show that Singapore "is still interested" in establishing a training arrangement here for its pilots. It is also reportedly pushing the discussion of "other options" for military cooperation.

Thailand

Uthai's 'Mandate' on IPR, Patent Issue Viewed

BK2704030593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Apr 93 p 4

[By Peter Maitri Ungphakhon: "A mandate for Uthai's Washington trip"]

[Text] Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon wants a new mandate to negotiate with the United States this week on intellectual property rights [IPR] and how to avoid US trade sanctions.

Since key members of the Cabinet are in Indonesia this week, Mr Uthai could have difficulty obtaining an official mandate in time for his departure. So here is an alternative.

First, the American demands.

Mr Uthai should remember that copyright is only one of two big intellectual property issues on American trade officials' minds. The other is pharmaceutical patents, a problem that cannot be solved by burning piles of pirated drugs because the US complaint is about Thai law, not about law-breaking.

US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor told the Thai Ambassador in Washington, M.L. Phiraphong Kasemsi, on Friday that the resolution of US intellectual property complaints against Thailand will require at least four points:

—"Credible" Thai government commitments to effective, sustained enforcement of copyright laws over the long term. This would require a "sharp" decrease in the level of piracy, with major pirates going out of business immediately or becoming legitimate licensees.

—Amendment of Thailand's intellectual property laws, particularly on copyright and patents, to the "internationally accepted standards" contained in the present draft intellectual property rights agreement awaiting approval in the Uruguay Round of world trade talks.

—Specific commitments from the Thai Government to change Thai patent law, rules and regulations on "compulsory licensing" provisions. These provisions give the Government the right to force patent-holders to license competitors to manufacture drugs if abuse of monopoly power is discovered.

The Americans want an end to the special treatment given to pharmaceuticals under these provisions, and to limit compulsory licensing so that patent-holders can import their drugs without being charged with failure to manufacture locally. At present failure to manufacture locally could be grounds for compulsory licensing even if the patented drug is imported.

—Specific commitments from the Thai Government to grant backdated "pipeline" patent protection for drugs that had already been invented but were not available on the Thai market, and therefore not patented in Thailand, when the new law came into effect last year.

Mr Uthai is keen to get Thailand away from the threat of sanctions and off the absurdly-named "Priority Foreign Country" list of offenders closest to suffering sanctions.

He is right, but he should not be prepared to yield everything to the United States. Some Thai practices have been unreasonable and should be corrected, but so are some US demands. Yielding all would destroy the balance of Thailand's interests even if it meant removing the threat of sanctions against Thai exports.

Second, Mr Uthai's mandate:

—Mr Uthai should tell the Americans that while Thailand agrees that the United States has grounds for complaint about past Thai trade practices, new laws have been passed, tougher enforcement has been implemented, and Thailand has unilaterally taken other liberalisation steps such as tariff reductions and gradual opening of the services sector. Therefore Thailand's trading partners have enjoyed a substantial rolling-back of trade barriers. He should reiterate that Thailand is committed to following "international standards."

By contrast, he should point out the United States has made no move in recent years to roll back the protectionist side of its trade policy. It has ignored criticisms from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) about its unilateral use of the various versions of Section 301 of its trade law.

If Mr Uthai wants to sign a memorandum of understanding with the United States or to make commitments with the United States in some other written form that acknowledge criticism of Thai trade policy, he should also insist that the United States acknowledge international criticism of its own trade policy. The criticism is after all fact, contained in GATT's Trade Policy Reviews of the United States. Mr Uthai should take time to read the GATT Trade Policy Review on the United States himself while he is on the plane to Washington.

If the United States insists on a specific Thai commitment to follow "international standards," Mr Uthai should insist that the United States also follow "international standards" set by the 108 members of GATT and use internationally-agreed means of negotiating and settling disputes. He should insist on a US commitment not to use measures that GATT finds offensive, namely Section 301 in its many guises.

—He should say that Thailand accepts that enforcement of copyright law has been lax. The Thai Government is willing to make a commitment to continue the recent crackdown on piracy that has already led to a "sharp" decrease in violations.

He should stress that the Government will continue serious actions to drive pirates out of business, and Washington can judge the effectiveness through continued monitoring of the results. But the Thai Government is in no position to guarantee that this will be effective "immediately", just as the US government cannot guarantee that major pirates operating within the United States, and supplying associates around the world, will go out of business "immediately".

—He should point out that Thailand has already largely amended its laws to comply with the draft final agreement of the Uruguay Round on intellectual property. The US assertion that this is not the case is a matter of interpretation which can be discussed bilaterally. Alternatively it can be challenged multilaterally through GATT once the Uruguay Round has been concluded. It should not be the subject of trade sanctions or the threat of retaliation.

—He should tell Mr Kantor that if the United States wants Thailand to implement provisions of the draft agreement before the Uruguay Round ends, or to introduce provisions that go beyond what is agreed, Thailand is willing to consider doing so provided the United States is also willing to make reciprocal commitments.

These would include US commitments to implement the agreement on agriculture ahead of schedule, to stop subsidising rice, and to guarantee to Thailand gradually expanding market access for sugar and textiles through steadily growing quotas that will be eliminated within a guaranteed period. That period would have to be faster than suggested by the Uruguay Round draft.

—He should demand that any commitment by the Thai Government to introduce legislation be matched by similar US Government commitments to change American law on the issues of concern to Thailand, for example the so-called Farm Act.

—He should secure acknowledgment from Mr Kantor that abuse of monopoly power is particularly damaging to the public interest when the products being abused are pharmaceuticals. Therefore, although the Thai Government is willing to discuss US dissatisfaction with the way patent-abuse is handled under Thai law, the United States will have to drop its sweeping objection to all measures that "discriminate against pharmaceutical patents."

Along with this negotiating mandate, Mr Uthai and his Cabinet colleagues should make a commitment to the Thai public to ensure that products subject to intellectual property rights protection will not be over-priced.

For pharmaceuticals, this would be achieved through careful monitoring of costs and the legitimate exercise of compulsory licensing powers. For all products, it would also be achieved by reductions in import duty, and by allowing "parallel imports" of legitimate products. Both of these measures would be particularly important for computer software and pharmaceuticals because sole authorised Thai distributors could sell imported products at a higher price than if independent dealers bought in the United States for sale here.

Mr Uthai could do well to take one other document with him on his trip to the United States: the February 13 edition of the NATIONAL JOURNAL, a US magazine. In it he will find both sides of the argument within the United States about whether patent protection leads to over-priced drugs.

"Even as US trade officials and the pharmaceutical industry are realising their longtime goal of having American-style patent protections adopted around the world, some voices at home are questioning the fairness of the American system," the article says.

It also quotes a patent lawyer advising the US generic drug industry as complaining that the US Trade Representative "ought to get advice from a range of sources, not just patent owners."

On the other hand, Mr Uthai could choose not to go to the United States at all this week. That would allow him to do his homework in greater comfort and avoid charges either of making a badly timed, expensive and pointless trip, or of caving in to the United States in order to get off the Priority Foreign Country list even though some of the US demands are unreasonable.

Cabinet Approves Commerce Ministry's U.S. Trip

BK2704144893 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 27 Apr 93

[From the "report on results of weekly cabinet meeting" program]

[Text] The cabinet today approved a proposal by the Commerce Ministry on sending a Thai delegation for talks with the United States on the problem of intellectual property rights [IPR]. The delegation, which will be in Washington D.C. from 27 April to 4 May, will have the following mission: 1. To get the United States to trust and have confidence in the actions taken by the Thai Government.

2. To make the United States realize that the Thai Government is sincere toward solving the problem of intellectual property rights violations, seriously and continuously.

3. To prevent trade retaliation or confusion which may arise from uncertainties in the decision made by the U.S. Government.

4. To not subject the Thai Government to commitments or conditions which are beyond its capability. This could be the case if Thailand failed to hold discussions with the United States in time.

It is the wish of the U.S. trade representative that Thailand and the United States hold another round of talks as soon as possible before a final decision will be handed down by the U.S. Government.

Uthai Details Mission

BK2804014393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Apr 93 p 26

[Excerpts] Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon has told the Cabinet that he needs to travel to Washington urgently in order to avoid the Thai Government being forced to yield too much to the United States on intellectual property.

His statement was made in a letter to the Cabinet secretary explaining his reasons for travelling to Washington this week. The letter was distributed to the Cabinet yesterday. [passage omitted]

The timing of Mr Uthai's scheduled return suggests he wants to be back in Bangkok in time for the May 6 reopening of Parliament.

Among those absent from yesterday's Cabinet meeting were Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak and Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri. They were in Indonesia with the prime minister's delegation.

Without those key Cabinet members, Mr Uthai has not been given a new negotiating mandate.

Instead, his letter says: "The Thai delegation will use the framework for negotiating with the United States on intellectual property rights that was adopted at the last negotiations between March 24 and 26,1993, as a basis for the [new] talks. If necessary, the Commerce Minister will consult with the Cabinet."

Critics are worried that in his enthusiasm to get Thailand off the so-called Priority Foreign Country list of nations threatened with sanctions, Mr Uthai could yield too much to the Americans, particularly on amending the pharmaceutical patent law.

But in the lead-up to his departure, a number of private sector groups whose exports would be hit by the threatened US retaliation have lent their support for his trip. They include manufacturers of well-known US shoe brands who say they employ 20,000 people and export two million pairs of shoes per month worldwide.

Today representatives of the gems and jewellery industry are scheduled to visit Mr Uthai at the ministry also to express their support.

But representatives of music and video tape copyright holders yesterday expressed dissatisfaction with the government's decision to bring discs and tapes under the Price Fixing and Anti-Monopoly law.

They are said to have complained at a meeting at the ministry that the controls of the law will penalise legitimate producers.

Deputy Minister Chulin Laksanawisit also announced that representatives of manufacturers, consumer protection agencies, the police and commerce officials will meet today to discuss further action against copyright violators. [passage omitted]

Ministry To Clarify IPR Enforcement

BK2804020193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Apr 93 p B1

[Text] Cabinet yesterday approved Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon's trip to the United States, which is scheduled to begin today.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Ministry is ready to take a tougher stance by calling a meeting today to clarify enforcement measures designed to clamp down on intellectual property rights violators, Deputy Commerce Minister Chulin Laksanawisit told reporters yesterday after the Cabinet meeting.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Ministry is devoting itself to stamping out intellectual property rights violators even though the United States has postponed its trade retaliation for another three months, claimed Chulin.

According to Chulin, the Ministry is calling for all parties concerned, ranging from representatives from the Office of Consumer Protection, the Police Department, the International Federation of Phonographic Industry (IFPI) and the Commerce Ministry, to discuss enforcements of three relavent acts later today.

The three are the Copyright Law of BE 2521, the Royal Directive on Consumer Protection, 1979; and the Royal Directive on Control of Audio/Video Tapes, 1987.

"In practical terms, the Consumer Protection Act will determine labelling regulations while the Audio/Video Tapes Control Act will determine whether to allow individual investors to start in the audio/video business or not.

"And the Copyright Law will determine the punitive enforcements for those without proper permits who engage in this kind of business.

"I hope that we can reach conclusions of how we are going to enforce them later today," said Chulin.

A similar meeting will be set up later to discuss another three acts which could be relavent: the Royal Directive on Price Fixing and Monopolies, 1979; the Royal Directive on Export and Import of Merchandise, 1979; and the Revolutionary Government Decree, Vol 285, said Chulin.

Peter Gun, the president of Thailand's IFPI, however, opposed the ruling of audio/video tapes as a controlled commodity, claiming that the practice will badly hurt the audio and video businesses alike.

According to Chulin, if the Commerce Ministry's special task force can identify and confirm the names of property rights violaters it will audit the accused's backlog accounts for two months to ensure the effectiveness of suppression.

Concerning the Pharmaceutical Act, the US government had asked Thailand to amend the law to provide protection for US drugs already patented but still in the clinical test time, or the so-called "pipeline period".

Chulin said that Thailand amended the law in October last year and it covers patented drugs for one year retrospectively.

"Whether we will respond to the US' request or not will depend on our bilateral relationship and on Thai consumers' demands, " said Chulin.

Meanwhile, representatives from the country's major footwear companies [exporters] have expressed strong support and enthusiasm for Uthai's visit to the United States.

Paper Urges 'Overhaul' of Cambodian Policy

BK2704022593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Apr 93 p A6

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Thailand needs an overhaul of its Cambodian policy now that Bangkok has taken into consideration the new reality. More specifically, to cope with the post-May situation after the Cambodian general election, Thailand must also accelerate its disengagement with the main culprit of the peace process—the Khmer Rouge.

Discussions with Thai top policy makers in the Foreign Ministry and armed forces revealed Thailand's real dilemma in coping with the ongoing situation in Cambodia particularly the would-be conditions after the May election.

Unfortunately, they do not think the United Nations-sanctioned election would change the domestic equations much in Cambodia. Worse, they think the post-May uncertainties and confusions could lead to more destabilizations and perhaps a renewed civil war.

Although Foreign Ministry officials have expressed support for the current United Nations peace process, they are still apprehensive about the role of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), which is administering the wartorn country. They think Untac has not done enough to create an environment that would convince the Khmer Rouge to return to the peace process.

Their common argument has been that Untac has failed to respond to the Khmer Rouge's two outstanding demands—verification of the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and the granting of more power to Supreme National Council [SNC].

The ministry also happens to think that free and fair elections in Cambodia is something hard to come by. Therefore, with such an expected outcome, the post-May scenario is not encouraging.

Before the imposition of UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge at the end of last year, Thailand together with Japan played very high-profile roles in trying to get the Khmer Rouge back on the peace process.

But their joint effort failed. Like rubbing more salt into the wounds, the subsequent UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge had created deep resentments among the officials and politicians, who viewed the sanctions as a means to punish Thailand for the Khmer Rouge's intransigence and halt Thailand's economic interest in Cambodia.

Thailand has lost close to Bt[baht]2-billion in terms of foregone business opportunities from the embargo on log and gemstones. Also the country's reputation had been further tarnished as Thai leaders clearly indicated their reluctance to cooperate with Untac.

At present, the Foreign Ministry's attitude towards Cambodia is an empathic one. Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri is currently blaming Western interference for the current worsening situation in Cambodia. He also urged the West to leave Cambodians alone, in order for them work out solutions to their problems.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said, in a radio programme on Friday night that Thailand had very limited choices in dealing with the current Cambodian situation and the Khmer Rouge issue. He said after the 1991 Paris Peace Accords were signed, Thailand had been distancing itself from the Khmer Rouge.

He said Thailand was still reluctant to help organize a new round of SNC talks after the Khmer Rouge withdrew its representation from Phnom Penh recently. Thailand is hoping that Khmer Rouge—still a member of SNC—would continue to have dialogues with other Cambodian factions.

What has been the most intriguing factor is the attitude of the Thai military towards the situation in Cambodia.

Despite the new changes that have taken place inside Cambodia, and the winds of democracy that have blown through the world, a few top military leaders unfortunately remain unperturbed. They till this moment still maintain that Thailand's interest in Cambodia should be to contain the influence of Vietnamese hegemony.

These Thai military leaders see the Khmer Rouge not as the enemy, unlike the international community, but as a useful and forceful tool in countering Vietnam. At least, they argue the Khmer Rouge guerillas are the only group that would use force against the Vietnamese, short of Thailand engaging in a direct arms confrontation. Since the end of 1978, the Maoist guerrillas have done just that.

Probably it's for this reason that the Thai military and security leaders have been very critical of Untac, which has decided to proceed with the May election without the Maoist group. They had repeatedly condemned Untac for their failure to restore a neutral political environment in Cambodia. A few top military brass even went further in alleging that Untac was an instrument of the West to isolate the Khmer Rouge.

With such a strong preconceived idea, without any basis whatsoever, it is difficult for the Thai military to alter their views. The most often asked question has always been: Why should Thailand change its policy towards the Khmer Rouge? What are the benefits of a new stance to be taken against the guerrillas?

One senior military official said that the political scene in Cambodia after May will be fluid and it is not certain who will lead the new government. He speculated that the worsening economic situation in Cambodia followed by the pull-out of Untac troops would provide an golden opportunity for the Khmer Rouge to return to power, by default or by sheer force.

With a long history of association with the Khmer Rouge and their close geographical proximity with Thailand, the Thai military is playing it safe with the guerrillas, with the hope that the post-May scenario would support their position.

Some of the military policy makers on Cambodia are so confident that Thailand is in a "no-lose" position as it has maintained ties with all the four factions. Thailand, they said, would quickly adjust its policy once the position is clear. Any new government also needs support from Thailand, they maintain.

Still, ambivalence is the pillar of Thailand's policy toward Cambodia. Both the Foreign Ministry and military have one thing in common: they believe that it is not good for Thailand to make any drastic change of its current policy towards Cambodia. Any policy change would attract the Khmer Rouge's retaliation against the Thai villagers which in turn would have far-reaching repercussions on domestic politics.

As far as Thailand's security is concerned, they are of the contention that the country is in a better position than ever before. With the soon-to-be completed repatriation of 362,000 Cambodians, who had been stranded in Thailand for the past 13 years, Thailand has boosted its border security and patrol to prevent future possible inflows of Cambodian refugees.

Even though the Cambodian conflict is at a critical point, it is sad that the Chuan government has not paid much attention to it and is instead embroiled in political bickering with the opposition. After last May's bloodshed, the military has firmly hinged on the Cambodian conflict as its main rallying point to boost its standing in Thai society—especially its national defence role.

Willfully or not Thailand has now in fact become the sole defender of Khmer Rouge. China, which used to be a strong backer, has already found a graceful exit for its strong ties with the group after the Paris agreement. The Thai leaders have echoed the Khmer Rouge's views and positions despite the guerrilla group's non-compliance with the Paris peace agreement, of which they are one of the signatories.

All told, after the scheduled election next month, Thailand would find itself in a totally new situation, especially in relation to its ties with the Khmer Rouge. It is likely that the Khmer Rouge would be outlawed by the new Cambodian government. As such, Thailand would certainly overnight turn into an accomplice of an outlawed group, which very likely will bring upon condemnation by international community.

The West is also contemplating ways to bring the Khmer Rouge's genocidal leaders to justice. Washington has said it would support and encourage the principle of a war crimes tribunal and see whether these leaders can be prosecuted.

Thailand's Cambodian policy, indeed, has been cursed by the Khmer Rouge essentially because of its enormous border-trade interest and the guerrillas' impeccable, and often unspoken, ties with the Thai powers-that-be. Thailand's continued support of the Khmer Rouge has sustained its power and survivability that can and will haunt the new Cambodian government in years to come.

Like it or not, without pondering on a new Thai policy toward the Khmer Rouge, history might repeat itself. Thailand could be caught in a situation in which its leaders would definitely try to avoid, like the inflow of refugees—given the Khmer Rouge's resolve to undermine Cambodia that could lead to the outbreak of a renewed civil-war.

Editorial Urges Cambodians To Solve Own Problem

BK2704103693 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 27 Apr 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Let the Cambodians Solve Their Problem"]

[Text] The 18 countries which signed the Cambodian peace agreement in Paris in October 1991 voiced their support for the election in Cambodia to be held according to schedule in late May, and also support the implementation of the Paris agreement through UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. They condemned the acts of violence in Cambodia, and called on all parties to stop the violence.

The 18 countries issued a statement at the end of a meeting chaired by the Indonesian and French foreign ministers which was held following a series of violent acts which is threatening the election in Cambodia. The Phnom Penh government and the Khmer Rouge were both responsible for the incidents.

Both Phnom Penh and the Khmer Rouge were accused of carrying out the acts of violence as the election campaign was officially kicked off. The Khmer Rouge was strongly condemned for not honoring the peace accord from the beginning—it refused to disarm; it refused to participate in the election; and it has murdered 10 UN officials in a bid to block the election.

It is regrettable that the Khmer factional leaders have ignored the opportunity, the first time in 13 years, to restore peace and rebuild the country. Support from the international community, especially the United Nations, which poured in both men and money, and efforts of all kinds to bring peace back to Cambodia, were to no avail.

Certain Cambodian leaders refused to honor the peace agreement they signed with 18 countries. They gave reasons as a pretext, but it is clear that they are just a pretext to enable them to remain in power. They have turned down the free election, the first in more than 20 years, and also the best chance for them to achieve a national reconciliation.

The statement issued by the 18 signatories of the Paris peace accord in New York last Saturday showed that the international community is now fed up with the stubborn Cambodian leaders. Even China, one of the 18 countries, expressed support that the election be held in Cambodia as scheduled whether the Khmer Rouge take part in it or not. China had been a staunch supporter of the Khmer Rouge all along.

The Thai Government and military leaders, who have inevitably had their hands tied with the conflicts in

Cambodia, are now sharing a view that the Cambodians should be left alone to solve their own problem. Others should not interfere; this is the best solution for them. But if the Cambodian leaders refuse to turn to each other in order to thrash out their problems, now it seems that the world should leave them alone to make war among themselves.

Official: Fake Notes in Cambodia Pose No Problem

BK2804031393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Apr 93 p 26

[Excerpt] Counterfeit 100-baht notes reported to be flooding Cambodia since the start of its election campaign earlier this month are unlikely to appear in significant numbers in Thailand, a Bank of Thailand official said yesterday.

Sommai Panyathon, head of the central bank's banknote issue department, said counterfeit 100-baht notes tend not to be used in Thailand because they are printed cheaply and are more obviously fakes to Thais familiar with genuine notes.

Counterfeiters prefer 500-baht notes, Mr Sommai said. Since the beginning of last year more than 2,000 fake 500-baht notes have been found, and 100 fake 100-baht notes, he said. In the border area, only fake 500-baht notes have been found, he added.

Mr Sommai said the amount of counterfeit cash found depends on the briskness of border trade. He described the present flow as "stable", reflecting no dramatic rise in border trade.

Mr Sommai was replying to questions about a report by Agence France Presse (AFP) from Cambodia quoting a Phnom Penh government official as saying hundreds of thousands of dollars in counterfeit money has flooded Cambodia since the start of the election campaign. [passage omitted]

MP Resigns Over Stock Manipulation Link

BK2604153593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Akon Huntrakun, Bangkok's Phalang Tham Party member of parliament and adviser to the foreign minister, following reports that he was involved in the stock manipulation by the Imperial Group of companies, this afternoon after a meeting of the party executive committee announced to newsmen that he had resigned as an MP. He said the reason for his resignation is given in the letter he submitted to the Phalang Tham Party. He said he asked the party not to stop him.

Commenting on Akon's decision, Sudarat Keyuraphan, deputy spokeswoman of the Prime Minister's Office, said Akon's resignation would not affect the stability of the government. On the other hand, it would give Akon an opportunity to prove his innocence.

[Begin recording] [Sudarat] This is a matter of personal conscience—what a person feels about his responsibility toward the country. It serves as a good example. This is a new dimension in our politics—when a person holding political or government positions, who is faced with charges of irregularities or ambiguities, resigns in order to prove his innocence. This is praiseworthy.

[Unidentified reporter] Will Akon be chosen by the party again to stand in the by-election?

[Sudarat] That depends on the party's decision. I cannot answer you now. [end recording]

MP's Fall 'Heavy Blow'

BK2704014593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Apr 93 pp A1, A2

["NATION Analysis" by Tunsathit Thapthim and Monwipha Wongruchira: "SEC Crackdown"]

[Text] The political downfall of hotel tycoon Akon Huntrakun has renewed the questions whether Thai politics is mature enough to accommodate new players who openly enter the field upbeat with democratic ideology yet trailed by vast business interests.

The question was raised after last May's bloody upheaval, but was overwhelmed by the euphoria that followed the successful pro-democracy uprising, during which yuppies participated in street demonstrations and business leaders joined a chorus of anti-military criticism.

Akon's resignation from the Phalang Tham Party, which will automatically make him lose his status as MP, will deal a heavy blow to the business community's ambition to play a greater role in politics, either through direct involvement or supportive means.

Akon was a member of Business Management Services (BMS) which came to the political spotlight in the wake of the May crisis pledging to foster a "business for society" concept.

BMS, consisting of well-known business and economic personalities, was hailed as a phenomenon. Businessmen in the past became involved in politics obviously for the sake of their own interests, choosing to support parties with good prospects to become a government or establishing influence in the parties' board. But the group represented a new trend of businessmen seeking to promote an overall atmosphere of political stability which could guarantee a smooth run for free market enterprise.

One key argument against direct involvement by business people in politics is that the temptation toward nepotism or favouritism always strikes even men with strong principles. Moreover, business irregularities often stemmed from the rather abstract nature of the crime, making many wrongdoers unaware they were breaching the law.

BMS initially planned to field at least 10 candidates in the general election last September. But eventually only Akon jumped into the unfamiliar arena and made a dramatic debut under the Phalang Tham Party's banner. Other potential candidates opted against running in the election on the grounds that there were signs "satanic" politicians would still hold sway and became the core of a new government.

During his political campaign, Akon became furious when a reporter asked him if he could guarantee that businessmen-turned-politicians were not only intent to use politics to protect and promote their enterpnses' interests.

"If I was less polite I would ask 'who paid you to ask this question'," quipped the president of the Imperial Hotel Group. "You are asking whether a man is honest. A man you don't even know."

In the run-up to the election, flamboyant Akon took his campaign to his constituents, walking into communities of the poor, talking and shaking hands with them.

"He looks like a millionaire's son escaped from his father's palace to play with the street kids," a newspaper quoted an observer as saying.

"If I succeed politically," Akon then told reporters, "I will persuade my BMS friends to run for House seats. Many of them have been interested but they are still afraid."

Akon won the September election in Bangkok's Constituency 1 by toppling a favourite candidate of the Prachakon Thai Party. The Imperial Hotel was used as Phalang Tham's "command headquarters" when negotiations started among the "angelic" allies bidding to form a government.

After the election, Akon kept his promise not to seek a Cabinet portfolio, despite his role as Phalang Tham's key financier. Yet sources said he was active behind the scenes as far as Phalang Tham's internal affairs were concerned. He was an influential figure during party elections, and said to be a prime mover in the party's unsuccessful bid to woo ex-prime minister Anan Panyarachun to succeed Chamlong Simuang as its new leader.

But as an MP, Akon sank into oblivion. He rarely made news politically, spoke little if at all during parliamentary debates, and did not become a member of any House committee. His role as adviser to Phalang Tham's Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri was considered merely ceremonial.

Akon's resignation from Phalang Tham yesterday was lauded as a display of responsible political spirit. Chamlong and Phalang Tham leader Bunchu Rotchanistian have expressed their confidence in Akon's integrity.

"I don't think what happened would discourage other businessmen from entering politics," Chamlong said. "Akon himself said all the time that businessmen who are ready can take part in politics."

What happened to Akon, however will certainly make his counterparts think twice even though they are ready.

Firm Offers To Build Road to Burma, PRC

BK2604030393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Apr 93 p 6

[Text] A privately-owned Thai company has made a proposal to the Rangoon government to build a road from the Shan state of Burma to link the border passes between Thailand, Burma and China.

The proposed road will begin in Tachilek, the Burmese border town opposite Mae Sai in Chiang Rai province of Thailand, and run through Kyainge Tong (or Chiang Tung) and end near the Chinese border at Daluo in Xisuangbanna (or Sipsongpanna).

The 225-km road will wind through large plains and the rugged mountain terrain of western Burma.

Mr Atsawin Suwannarit, a Chiang Rai-based Thai businessman, who recently registered his Asia International Transport and Enterprise Co Ltd to undertake the project, said a team of Thai engineers conducted a feasibility in mid-February and the proposal has already been submitted to Rangoon.

The company offered to build the road in exchange for a 30-year concession period.

Construction, expected to cost about 300 million baht, will take four years.

Talks have been held with Chinese authorities in Yunnan and Burmese authorities in Rangoon. Both have agreed to the project in principle, said Mr Atsawin.

"We're now waiting to talk to Thai authorities," he added.

Once the road is built the Thai government will have to open a permanent border check-point because the present one at Mae Sai is only temporary, he said.

Mr Atsawin said the road will benefit all three countries.

It will also facilitate communication for the Burmese people while Thai and Chinese products will stand to enjoy better market access.

Despite the existing transportation problem, due to bad roads, Thai consumer products, motorcycles and automobiles have still managed to flood Burmese and Chinese markets.

Meanwhile, Mr Chen Sixiong, the Communist Party secretary-general in Xishuangbanna, confirmed Chinese support for the project and offered to help its construction.

But he warned that the main impediment to project lay on the Burmese side where ethnic minorities fighting for autonomy from Rangoon control the areas through which the road will run.

China, he said, was eager to see the scheme materialise and to that end is expected to have raised the matter with Rangoon.

Presently, a group of Wa soldiers, claiming to belong to the United Wa State Army, have set up an outpost on the Kyainge Tong-Muang La route to collect fees from travellers.

The Wa troops were formerly part of the Burmese Communist Party. But last year the communists gave in to Rangoon in return for the right to continue their activities in the areas.

When asked about the problem, a Burmese tourism official said as far as his government was concerned the Wa outpost was illegal.

He said he will report the matter to Rangoon and also raise it with the local authorities in Kyainge Tong.

He said Rangoon had already adopted a policy to facilitate travelling in the region by making local authorities responsible for the traffic passing through their area.

There was also a plan to establish an official check-point at Maung La near the Chinese border at Daluo and issue border passes to those travelling between the two countries, he said.

Apart from the road project, Mr Atsawin said he has been granted a licence by the Burmese government to operate tour packages to Burma by sea, from Ranong to Rangoon.

Crossings To Be Opened for Log Imports From Burma

BK2804021593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Apr 93 p A2

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved an Interior Ministry proposal to open 14 temporary border crossings with Burma to facilitate the import of logs, Deputy Commerce Minister Chulin Laksanawisit said.

He told reporters after the Cabinet meeting that it was necessary to open the border crossings while Thai companies still had the right to carry out the business in Burma.

The Cabinet approval to open the crossings was supported by the Agriculture Ministry, according to Chulin who added that he was confident the move would not aggravate deforestation since the Agriculture Ministry would carry out strict inspections.

Meanwhile, a senior official from the Interior Ministry said the approval was aimed at allowing the 14 Thai companies with legitimate contracts in Burma to import logs left there after fighting erupted recently in the frontier.

Under an agreement between the Thai logging firms and Rangoon, the log transfer is to be completed within six months.

The official said his ministry would assign the concerned agencies to look over the business so that everything complied with the contract and to ensure that the imported logs had been legally felled in Burma.

The agencies have also to make sure that illegal logging and the smuggling of war weapons, drugs and illegal commodities is not involved in the logging business, he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasthian yesterday expressed his concern over the plan, saying that strict regulations were needed to ensure that there were no imports of illegally felled logs.

Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut, however, did not include in his proposal a request to re-open Thai border crossings with Cambodia, claiming some Cabinet members responsible for the matter were absent from the meeting.

PM's Office deputy spokesman Thamrong Thaimongkhon said some Cabinet members including Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and deputy minister Surin Phitsuwan did not attend the meeting since they were part of the prime minister's delegation to Indonesia. He added that the Cabinet had to consider the United Nations resolution banning the import of logs from Cambodia while deciding on the case.

Deputy Communications Minister Thawi Kraikup yesterday told reporters that according to the Interior Minister, the case was sensitive and needed careful study.

Chawalit earlier said he intended to ask the Cabinet yesterday to consider temporarily re-opening all border crossings with Cambodia, including those in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas, amid fears by the Foreign Ministry that the plan would go counter to the United Nations-sanctioned embargoes on the Khmer Rouge.

However, the case is expected to be proposed for Cabinet approval during its next meeting on May 4.

Kraison Nanthamanop, the owner of one of the 27 Thai companies with logging licences in Cambodia, yesterday told THE NATION that it was likely timber from Cambodia would cost more than that from Burma after the May election in Cambodia.

"We have to wait and see the results of next month's election in Cambodia If the Cambodian government comprises only three Cambodian factions, the Khmer Rouge will surely become a minority group," he said.

Spokesman Discusses Ties With Saudi Arabia, Romania

BK2704021193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Apr 93 p A3

[Text] More doors are opening for Thailand in its attempt to strengthen bilateral ties with Saudi Arabia, soured for years by the Saudi murder cases, according to the Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek yesterday.

He was quoting Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan who made the remarks at a dinner in Riyadh last Friday.

Saudi Arabia has accepted the deaths of its diplomats as the will of Allah but the country could not tolerate distortion of information delays in the investigation and the arrest of scapegoats, Surin said.

However, the Middle East country has shown a better understanding of Thailand' attempts to wrap up the Saudi cases, by welcoming Surin and his entourage to Riyadh.

The minister is on a week-long official visit to the desert kingdom. He was speaking last Friday at a dinner party attended by Thai workers, officials, businessmen and Thai students in Riyadh.

Surin told guests at the dinner that Saudi diplomats had been killed in other countries such as Pakistan, Turkey, Canada and France with the cases still remaining unsolved. But those nations were honest when they informed Riyadh of what had happened, which pleased the Saudis, Surin said.

Surin described step-by-step the improvement in Saudi Arabia's understanding leading to more doors being opened for Thailand to strengthen mutual ties.

He said here Surin arrived in Riyadh last Thursday to a warm welcome, which in itself showed a thaw in the relations between Bangkok and Riyadh.

Surin is scheduled to be granted audience by Prince Faysal bin-Fahd, and Prince Sultan bin-Salman.

Prince Faysal is the owner of the jewels stolen by Kriangkrai Techamong who smuggled the jewels back to Thailand. Police arrested Kriangkrai and retrieved the stolen jewels but Riyadh claimed that some portion of the valuables returned were fake.

"Accepting the Thai request for Surin's delegation to visit him is a significant move by Prince Faysal, showing his satisfaction at this country's attempts to solve the case," Sakthip said.

The Saudi government suspended the issuance of new visas and re-entry visas for Thai job seekers after the murders of four Saudi diplomats in 1989 and 1990 in retaliation for the Thai failure to solve the cases.

Thai workers in Saudi Arabia whose visas have expired also face difficulties as their employers refuse to allow them to leave the country, fearing that they would not be able to return.

Deputy Romanian Prime Minister Teodor V. Malescanu will pay three-day visit to Thailand at the invitation of Thai Foreign Ministry, starting Thursday.

Malescanu, who is also foreign minister, will meet his Thai counterpart, Prasong Sunsiri, to discuss various issues on the second day of his visit, according to a Foreign Ministry's press release.

The two ministers are scheduled to sign agreements on promotion and protection of bilateral investment and on exemption of visa requirements for diplomats.

The press release said Malescanu will also pay a courtesy call on Senate president Michai Ruchuphan, Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasathian and Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon.

Vietnam

Officials: Chances of IMF Loan Resumption Slim

BK2704070193 Hong Kong AFP in English 0554 GMT 27 Apr 93

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hanoi, April 27 (AFP)—Vietnamese officials acknowledged Tuesday that chances are limited that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will decide to resume lending to Vietnam during its spring meeting in Washington.

Even though Japan and Germany have joined the countries calling for Vietnam's return to the fold, officials and diplomats here said the United States retains political if not technical veto power over the decision.

"There is no better than a 50-50 chance" that the breakthrough will come during the IMF meeting opening Wednesday, a Vietnamese official said.

"France and some other countries are trying to mobilize support, but they don't want to undermine their relationship with the United States."

The United States is blocking desperately needed soft loans to force more cooperation out of Hanoi in accounting for U.S. servicemen missing in action (MIA) from the Vietnam War.

The former foes appeared to be speeding toward a settlement of the issue until two weeks ago, when a U.S. newspaper reported that a document had been found in Russian archives indicating that Hanoi had been holding several hundred more U.S. prisoners of war than it released in 1973.

Even though a subsequent visit here by U.S. envoy John Vessey showed the document to be fraught with inaccuracies, the damage was done.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, who was conducting an intensive review of U.S. Vietnam policy ahead of the IMF meeting, declared last week that he was "not fully satisfied" with progress on the MIA issue.

"After the so-called Russian document, President Clinton seems to be more cautious," said a Vietnamese offical, who asked not to be identified.

"At this point, we can't expect the United States to publicly support (resumption of IMF lending), but we hope that implicitly they will not oppose it."

President Francois Mitterrand has pledged that France would call for resumed lending during the IMF meeting, and Germany and Japan have both cautiously voiced similar support in the last few months.

Japan resumed official bilateral lending to Hanoi last November.

The support of Germany and Japan would give the French-led "Friends of Vietnam" enough votes to override the United States, which does not have veto rights at the IMF as it does at the World Bank.

France, Italy, Sweden and other countries have already offered to help Vietnam cover its approximately 140-million-dollar arrears to the IMF, and the Banque Francaise de Commerce Exterieur has arranged a bridging loan if foreign aid is not enough.

Hanoi has stabilized its arrears through interest payments since late 1988, meaning there are virtually no technical barriers to restoring its eligibility.

But not even France will force the issue of resumed lending to Vietnam over a U.S. objection, according to Western diplomats and financial officials.

"France feels that the Vietnam issue is important, but not important enough to damage its relations with the United States," said a visiting Western official closely involved with the issue.

With politically vocal veterans' groups and MIA families still in an uproar over the Russian document, Clinton is unlikely to give the green light now, the diplomats and officials said.

Erich Spitaller, who opened a permanent IMF office in Hanoi at the start of the year, said he had advised Vietnamese officials not to be too hopeful about the chances of seeing aid resumed at the spring meeting.

"I have no evidence that something will happen," he said.

But diplomats and officials here stressed that Clinton could lift the U.S. embargo any time.

Hanoi hopes the move will come before October or November, when a conference of aid donors to Vietnam is tentatively scheduled for Geneva with the participation of the IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Vietnam needs multilateral soft loans to move to the next stage of the economic revolution triggered by the introduction of market-oriented reforms in the late 1980s, economists said.

The funds would be used primarily to upgrade infrastructure and reform cumbersome state-owned enterprises, a legacy of years of communist central planning.

Radio Previews IMF Session; U.S. Said Isolated

BK2804074893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The coming session of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] to be held on 30 April will discuss the monetary issues and the world economy. Vietnam's economic development will be considered and discussed at this meeting, and this could provide an interesting debate. If the United States wants to continue to prevent the IMF from providing assistance to Vietnam, it is likely it will have few, if any, allies. France, Germany, and other countries have indicated that they would not take into consideration the U.S. attitude at this meeting and would continue to help Vietnam.

Moreover, France has just put forth a proposal to assist Vietnam in clearing its debt from the IMF. The IMF leadership considered this a good initiative and said that some other countries such as Australia and Sweden have also expressed their readiness to take part in the proposal. The IMF itself is taking positive action in support of Vietnam's economy. According to Mr. Eric Spittaler, IMF representative in Hanoi, Vietnam and IMF are prepared for talks to reach an agreement. Meanwhile, IMF is preparing to implement some financial support projects for Vietnam. This is of great significance: It proves that IMF [words indistinct] positive changes in Vietnam's economy. It is hoped in its coming session, the IMF will continue to take positive acts to help Vietnam. This will greatly help Vietnam's economic development.

U.S. Trade, Investment Firm Opens Hanoi Office

BK2804061693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The first American business company has opened its door in Vietnam. It is the Vietnam-American Trade and Investment Company, or VATICO, which held its opening ceremony in Hanoi on Saturday. VATICO received its license from the Ministry of Trade on 18 March, and from the United States Government on 11 January this year. According to the French news agency AFP, some other American companies have recently been granted licenses for their operation in Vietnam.

Deputy Premier Signs Cooperation Pact With Laos

BK2604143593 Hanoi VNA in English 1321 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 26— An agreement on economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation for 1993 between Vietnam and Laos was signed here this afternoon.

The signatories were Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and Khamphoui Keoboualapha, vice-chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers.

The two deputy prime ministers also signed the minutes of the 15th session of the Vietnam-Laos Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation during which they had worked out the agreement.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

Lao Delegation Departs 27 Apr

BK2704154793 Hanoi VNA in English 1432 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 27—A high-level economic delegation of the Lao Government left here today, concluding a six-day visit to Vietnam.

It was headed by Khamphoui Keoboulapha, politburo member of the Central Committee of the Lao People Revolutionary Party and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and was here to attend the 15th session of the Vietnam-Laos Inter-governmental Commission for Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

The Lao guests were seen off by Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, politburo member of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Communist Party, and other high Vietnamese officials.

Lao Ambassador to Vietnam Khamphet Phengmuong was on hand.

Economic Cooperation Protocol Signed With Russia

BK2604154393 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] A delegation of the Republic of the Russian Federation led by (?Fratinitkov), first deputy minister of Foreign Economic Relations and deputy chairman of the Russian-Vietnamese Inter-Governmental Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, visited Vietnam to discuss promotion of economic and trade cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of the Russian Federation.

During the visit, the delegation was received by Tran Duc Luong, deputy prime minister; and Le Van Triet, minister of trade. The delegation also had working sessions with Le Xuan Trinh, deputy chairman of the Russian-Vietnamese Inter-Governmental Committee; with the State Planning Commission; and with other concerned organs.

On 21 April 1993, (?Fratinitkov) and Vo Hong Phuc, deputy chairman of the State Planning Commission and head of the economic delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, signed the protocol on economic and trade cooperation between the two countries in 1993.

Vo Nguyen Giap Returns From PRC Visit 26 Apr

BK2704152793 Hanoi VNA in English 1304 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 27—General Vo Nguyen Giap yesterday concluded a 20-day China visit at the invitation of the Communist Party of China.

While there, Vo Nguyen Giap was received by Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and president of the People's Republic of China.

He had working sessions with leaders of the External Relations Department and the Central Propaganda Department of the CPC Central Committee, the State Commission for Restructuring Economic System and the State Science and Technology Commission.

He also visited some economic and cultural establishments in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong and Guangxi.

Deputy Foreign Minister Addresses ESCAP

BK2404152093 Hanoi VNA in English 1422 GMT 24 Apr 93

[all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—'It is clear that in order to turn Asia and the Pacific into a stable and prosperous region, the only solution for us all is to respect national independence and sovereignty of states, and through negotiation for settlement of any conflict and cooperation for development', said Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan.

Mr Vu Khoan was speaking at the 49th annual session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of the United Nations opened in Bangkok on April 21. The Vietnamese head delegate to the meeting continued:

'One of effective measures that could help us to achieve prosperity is to actively cooperate with one another in realisation of the theme topic correctly chosen for this session 'Expansion of Investment and Intraregional Trade as a Vehicle for Enhancing Regional Economic Cooperation and Development in Asia and the Pacific'.

Dealing with factors to develop the Asian-Pacific region into a peaceful and prosperous region, Mr Khoan noted: 'Asia and the Pacific region not only lies in but even reflects more clearly common tendencies of the world. We are pleased to note that our region is still the most economically dynamic region with the highest rate of development in the world. In addition to that, Asia and the Pacific seems in the immediate future to be a relatively stable region in comparison with some other regions. Such above-mentioned factors are a good base for cooperation endeavour in building a peaceful and prosperous Asia and the Pacific. However, this state of relative stability in the region will contain in itself many uncertainties due to the already-existing or newly emerging contradictions which could at any time cause unstability and threaten peace and development of the region'.

Mr Khoan voiced Vietnam's commitment to 'continue its contribution with its highest possible capacity to the regional cooperation for peace and prosperity'.

He also recalled Vietnam's economic renovation policy as well as its foreign policy and achievements recorded in recent years.

On the Cambodia issue, the Vietnamese deputy foreign minister stressed 'we consistently respect the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia, and join the world community to call on all Cambodian parties to strictly implement the agreement so that Cambodia can become a peaceful, neutral and non-aligned country, having friendly relations with all countries. Also for that reason, we are deeply concerned with the acts of sabotage of the agreement, especially escalated series of terrorization, massacre and driving-away of Vietnamese ethnics, bluntly violating human rights and reminding of the nightmare of 'The Killing Fields'. From this forum, we call on the world and regional community to condemn and take immediate action to put an end to these criminal acts so that the normal life of the ethnic Vietnamese is ensured'.

National Assembly Team Visits Truong Sa Islands

BK2604144393 Hanoi VNA in English 1325 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 26—A delegation of the National Assembly led by its Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy has paid a visit to Truong Sa Islands on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the take-over of the islands from the Saigon regime. The delegation was accompanied by many senior officials of various ministries and mass organisations together with a number of prominent scientists.

Addressing a meeting held at the main Island of Truong Sa on April 24, Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy brought out the importance of the territorial waters and islands in the cause of national construction and defence in the past, at present and in the future as well. Many centuries ago, he said, the Vietnamese state was the first to establish ownership over the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa archipelagoes, and today, Vietnam continues to exercise its sovereignty over these two groups of islands. In the current complex world situation, Dang Quan Thuy added, it is the sacred duty of the Vietnamese Armed Forces and people to defend the full national sovereignty over Truong Sa. The stationing forces on the islands must combine national defence with economic tasks, help the local population to exploit the natural resources in the sea and on the islands, and defend the installations already erected.

Science, Technology Delegation Visits PRC

BK2604105693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] At the invitation of the State Commission on Science and Technology of China, a Science and Technology delegation of the SRV Government led by Dang Huu, minister of science, technology, and environment, visited China from 5-12 April 1993. The delegation attended the first meeting of the PRC-SRV Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

Minister Dang Huu met with Song Jian, PRC minister in charge of the State Commission on Science and Technology, on 6 April. The two sides briefed each other on the situation concerning scientific and technological development, and discussed a bilateral cooperation plan. A protocol on the first meeting was signed at a ceremony held at the government guest house.

National Assembly Adopts Ordinances

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[National Assemby Standing Committee's communique—date not given]

[Text] The National Assembly Standing Committee held a conference on 9-14 and 17-22 April in Hanoi under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh.

1. The National Assembly Standing Committee discussed and adopted the Ordinance on the Organization of the Military Court and the Ordinance on the Military Office of Control after hearing reports by the Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court and Chief Procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, viewpoints of the Government, and an investigative report of the National Assembly's National Defense and Security Committee on these two ordinances. The ordinances will help to institutionalize various stipulations of the SRV Constitution, the Law on the Organization of the People's Court, the Law on Organization of the People's Organ of Control, and regulations on organization and activities of Military Courts and the Military Office of Control. These ordinances also set an essential legal base for the Military Courts and Military Office of Control to effectively carry out their tasks, functions, and control work, thus meeting requirements and responsibility in the new situation.

2. After hearing the government's report, the National Assembly Judiciary Committee presented an investigative report on the draft Ordinance on Execution of Civil Sentences. Afterward, the National Assembly Standing Committee discussed and adopted this ordinance. The promulgation of this ordinance is essential at present because it serves as a legal base to ensure the validity of civil sentences and decisions of the courts, protects interests of the state, guarantees the legitimate rights and interests of socioeconomic organizations and citizens, and contributes to strengthening the socialist legal system.

3. Concerning the Ordinance on the Recognition and Execution in Vietnam of Foreign Courts' Civil Decisions and Sentences, the National Assembly Standing Committee contributed its ideas to this ordinance at the March 1993 meeting and charged the government's Law Drafting Committee and the National Assembly Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committees with the duty of perfecting this ordinance on the basis of the National Assembly Standing Committee's viewpoints. At this meeting, the National Assembly Standing Committee, after hearing the abovementioned agencies report on their work, approved this ordinance. The promulgation of this ordinance will help expand and develop cooperation between Vietnam and other countries, protect the interests of the state, and guarantee the rights and interests of foreigners as well as of Vietnamese citizens.

4. The National Assembly Standing Committee examined the report of the Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court on the draft Ordinance on Judges and People's Assessors; report of the Chief Procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control on the draft Ordinance on Procurators; and an investigative report on these two draft ordinances by the National Assembly Judiciary Committee. The National Assembly Standing Committee charged the law drafting committees and the National Assembly Judiciary Committee with the task of perfecting these draft ordinances for submission to the National Assembly Standing Committee in the next meeting for approval.

5. Implementing the Ninth National Assembly Second Session's resolution on the law building task for 1993, the National Assembly Standing Committee examined reports of government and ideas of various National Assembly Committees on the draft laws on publishing work, on oil and natural gas, on state business units, on bankruptcy of business establishments; and various draft bills on supplementing and amending to the laws on export-import taxes, turnover tax, income tax, and special consumption tax. The National Assembly Standing Committee charged the law drafting committees and various National Assembly Committees with the task of continuing to perfect these draft bills for submission to the upcoming Ninth National Assembly's Third Session.

6. After hearing a report by the Chief of the National Assembly Office on the draft regulations governing activities of the National Assembly Standing Committee, National Assembly deputies, and National Assembly delegations, the National Assembly Judiciary Committee gave its viewpoints on the draft regulations. The National Assembly Standing Committee discussed this issue and charged the National Assembly Office with the task of coordinating with the National Assembly Judiciary Committee to perfect the draft regulations for submission to the upcoming Ninth National Assembly's Third Session.

7. The National Assembly Standing Committee heard the Government report on the situation of the 1993 state budget, the implementation of the state budget in the first quarter of this year, the estimated state budget for the first half of 1993, and the National Assembly Economic and Budget Committee's viewpoints on these issues. The National Assembly Standing Committee noted that remarkable progress has been made in implementing the 1993 socioeconomic task and the state budget in the first quarter, thereby contributing to accelerating the agro-industrial production, promoting export-import, improving goods circulation, and stabilizing prices and the people's daily life. The National Assembly Standing Committee urged the Government to pay special attention to providing guidance to agencies concerned to effectively implement the state budget in accordance with the spirit of the National Assembly's resolution on the 1993 estimated state budget. Efforts must be made to encourage sectors and localities to develop their dynamism to strive to increase the state revenues, to reduce the state budget deficit, and to allot more money to production development projects; to urgently formulate essential policies and regulations to ensure state revenue collection; to promote the practice of thrift, closely control expenditures, and overcome negativism in capital construction.

8. The National Assembly Standing Committee heard the report on letters of complaint and denunciation lodged by the people to the National Assembly during the first quarter of 1993. The National Assembly Standing Committee contended that settlement of the people's letters of complaint and denunciation is very essential. Although the authorized agencies have made great efforts to resolve this issue, the people's aspirations have yet to be met. To satisfactorily carry out this task, efforts must be made to strengthen coordination between sectors and echelons. The National Assembly Standing Committee suggested the Government review the implementation of the Ordinance on Settlement of the People's Complaint and Denunciation during the past two years in order to improve the task and to quickly meet the people's legitimate aspirations.

9. The National Assembly Standing Committee examined preparations for the Ninth National Assembly's Third Session and decided that the session will be held in mid-June.

10. The National Assembly Standing Committee examined preparations for the Fifth National Congress of the People's Councils to review organization and activities of various echelons of the people's councils and to discuss orientations, tasks, and measures to improve their work for the remaining period of their term. In this spirit, efforts must be made to suggest ideas and measures aimed at contributing to formulating the draft laws on organization of the people's councils and people's committees, and the draft law on election of the people's councillors.

11. The National Assembly Standing Committee heard report on results of the official friendship visit to the Republic of the Philippines of the SRV National Assembly delegation led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh on 29-31 March. The National Assembly Standing Committee welcomed and highly appraised results of the visit saying it has marked a new development in the relations between the two peoples and national assemblies, promoting their mutual understanding and sympathy, and strengthening cooperation between the two nations, thereby contributing to maintaining peace, stability, and development in the region.